



THE INDEPENDENT

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IN THE MONDAY REVIEW NETWORK

'I will not resign,' says Clinton as he prepares for his longest week

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton insisted yesterday that he would not leave office voluntarily, nor admit to breaking the law. At the start of a momentous week in American politics, and a potentially fateful mission to Israel and the West Bank, a defiant and stony-faced Mr Clinton said: "I have no intention of resigning. It's never crossed my mind."

Mr Clinton, who last week became only the second president in US history to face a full House vote on impeachment, rebuffed demands to acknowledge he had lied under oath when he denied an affair with Monica Lewinsky. "I can't do that because I did not commit perjury," he said.

"I don't know what's going to happen," Mr Clinton added later at a joint press conference with the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. "It's out of my hands."

The US President was speaking in Jerusalem, on the first leg of a Middle East trip that threatens almost as many risks as the political minefield back home. As journalists repeatedly questioned the US President on his future, Mr Netanyahu futilely urged them to focus on the endangered land-for-security deal signed at Wye in the US between Israel and the Palestinians.

But with the Wye Agreement threatening to unravel, a trip conceived as a celebratory by the US President had turned into an emergency diplomatic salvage operation.

The discordant tone of the visit was set almost as soon as Mr President arrived at Tel Aviv airport. After the playing of national anthems, Mr Netanyahu welcomed Mr Clinton to Israel with a volley of warnings about Palestinian

Clinton to resign.

Henry Hyde, chairman of the House judiciary committee, yesterday said Mr Clinton should go. "Yes, I think the President should step down," he said. "I think he could be heroic if he did that."

The most senior politician to call for Mr Clinton's voluntary

departure, Mr Hyde said resignation would provide a "quick and radical" end to the scandal. "If he doesn't, it's hard to predict the consequences."

Mr Hyde was speaking the morning after his committee approved all four draft articles of impeachment against the President: two alleging perjury, one

obstruction of justice, and the fourth abuse and misuse of power. It also rejected the softer option of censure. Each article of impeachment - the formal charges that Mr Clinton would face if the full House votes for a Senate trial - was challenged by the Democrats, producing moments of high drama.

Minutes before the first vote

- on the first perjury charge on Friday - television stations had interrupted transmissions to show Mr Clinton's latest apology, a last-ditch plea for indulgence from the White House Rose Garden. On Saturday, transmission of the passage of the fourth and last article was

interrupted by the President's arrival in Israel.

The television screens split between sequences of the President standing straight in Israel, hand on heart, the very image of solemn authority, for the playing of the US national anthem, and shots of the committee, tired and fractious.

hickering about definitions of lying and sexual misconduct.

With the articles of impeachment now passed, Mr Clinton's immediate fate rests with the House of Representatives which has been summoned back to Washington this Thursday for the crucial vote.

The defeat of the censure motion in committee makes it unlikely that a censure option will be placed before the full House. A majority for any one of the four articles makes a Senate trial all but inevitable.

Mr Clinton's constitutional disgrace is now set to surpass that of Richard Nixon, who resigned before the House could vote on a Senate trial.

With time running out, White House aides are desperately searching for a strategy to save Mr Clinton from disaster.

But the mood of the country could hardly be more different. The President may be in dire constitutional danger, a centrepiece of his diplomacy may be in shreds, but a surreal air of calm pervades the land beyond the proverbial Washington "Beltway".

Mr Clinton's job approval ratings persist above 60 per cent; according to the polls, his impeachment is opposed by almost as many; most favour a censure vote. Last month's congressional elections renewed the Democrats' - and the President's - mandate.

But the constitutional process moves on. It is out of

killer with the popular mood, but the voters are out Christmas shopping. "Wake up, America", said one of the more articulate Democrats on the judiciary committee last week as he tried in vain to turn the Republican tide. "Wake up; if they can do it to the President, they can do it to you."

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Bill Clinton (right) in conversation with the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, after their joint press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday

Blake Sell/Reuters

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Blair edges around IRA arms deadlock

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

hoped, restore some momentum and prepare the ground for a new year push to tackle decommissioning.

On the technicalities of these issues, Unionists and nationalists are at all accounts on the point of agreement: a senior Unionist figure said they and the SDLP were "within an ace" of an accord. The question is whether prime ministerial involvement can clinch the issue.

The weekend brought salvos of hard-line rhetoric between the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein. Mr Trimble said: "We are quite disappointed at the failure of the Sinn Fein leadership, who have it within their power to resolve this issue. It is their intransigence that is the problem. It is a return of peace and I am sure all civilised people will repudiate them."

Gerry Kelly - a senior Sinn Fein member who has been euphemistically described as "close to the thinking" of the

IRA - meanwhile accused the Unionist party of bad faith and of attempting to exclude Sinn Fein from new political arrangements.

In an important speech in commemoration of a republican hero, he added: "Republicans are becoming increasingly detached from the Good Friday Agreement."

"It is increasingly my own view that the Unionist party is engaged in an attempt to push the IRA back to war."

Significantly, however, he went on to signal that republicans were not about to fall into this alleged trap. "There is an onus on republicans to resist the destructive and short-sighted Unionist strategies," he said.

The Unionist and Sinn Fein positions have now assumed a curious symmetry.

Unionists say Sinn Fein leaders can and should push the IRA into decommissioning; republicans say Mr Trimble and his allies should convince nervous back-benchers that Sinn Fein should be brought into government.

Animal rights man ends hunger strike

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

BARRY HORNE, the militant animal rights campaigner yesterday ended his hunger strike, having refused food for more than nine weeks.

In a brief statement issued

last night, the Animals Betrayed Coalition, said Horne had decided to rescind his living will - which ensured he would not be kept artificially alive - after studying a series of government papers. He had also requested to be fed.

The papers were released this week and it is understood Horne believed they represent a change in the Government's stance on animal experimentation.

"Barry has finished going through the papers today and at 4.30pm he rescinded his living will," said the statement.

The Prison Service said Horne, 48, had asked for his living will to be rescinded and had requested "nutrition and medical attention".

Whether Horne will be able to make a full recovery is un-

rupted. As a result, he was returned to Full Sutton Jail where he is serving an 18-year sentence for arson.

His condition is said to be "serious but stable", though supporters said yesterday his eyesight had deteriorated to the extent he could only see silhouettes.

Horne began his hunger strike on 6 October but said he would end it if the Government announced a date for the setting up of a Royal Commission into the use of animals in experiments. The Government said it refused to be blackmailed by his tactics.

It is believed that one of Horne's former wives, Aileen, visited him in prison on Saturday. His friend and next-of-kin Alison Lawson visited him yesterday prior to his announcement.

Police had been warned to expect a surge in violent activity from animal rights activists if Horne died. It is understood that a hit-list of people linked to animal experimentation had been drawn up.

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The last of the British movie moguls

BY PAUL McCANN
Media Editor

THE WORLD of show business yesterday paid tribute to Lord Grade, the legendary impresario of film and television who died on Sunday morning at the age of 91.

Lord Grade died of a heart attack while surrounded by close family at the London Clinic. He had been ill for some time.

Tributes to his 70 years in show business were led by his friend Lord Puttnam, the film producer: "He was an extraordinary man, ebullient, generous and unique. With Sydney Bernstein of Granada, he was fundamental to the development of the ITV we now know. He always wanted to make a deal and you could never surprise him. I loved him." The actress Barbara Windsor said yesterday: "What made him special was that he had a great feel for what would be popular and that's what made him loved by thousands in show business."

Ms Windsor and Lord Puttnam were joined by the film director Michael Winner who said: "Lord Grade was an extraordinary man. We'll never see anyone like that again. He was just a wonderful man to do a deal with."

Lord Grade, born Louis Winogradsky, became a professional dancer in the Twenties, touring halls with his own troupe to dance the Charleston on in exhibitions with his brother Bernard.

When the dancing damaged his knees, Lew Grade set up his own theatrical agency with Bernard. His taste for outsize cigars developed during the war when he gave out the huge cigars as a way of keeping the stars he managed happy.

In 1955 he teamed up with showman Val Parnell to be part of the launch of ITV where his talent in variety and light entertainment soon came to dominate the channel. It was because of the strength of his ATV company that ITV challenged the supremacy of the BBC through the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies.

If Bernstein's Granada broke new ground with *Coronation Street* and *World in Action*, Grade's ATV created an almost endless succession of regular drama serials. He said earlier this year that he had made 10,000 hours of television drama and despite his tendency to showmanship, it was easy to believe him.

Lord Grade's production arm ITC made 165 episodes of *Robin Hood*, 141 episodes of *The Saint* and just about every classic serial from the golden age of British television. These included *Randall and Hopkirk (deceased)*, *Thunderbirds*, *Space 1999*, *The Persuaders* and *The Prisoner*.

Referring to the *Thunderbirds*, *Space 1999* and *Joe 90*, he said recently: "I did space before Spielberg."

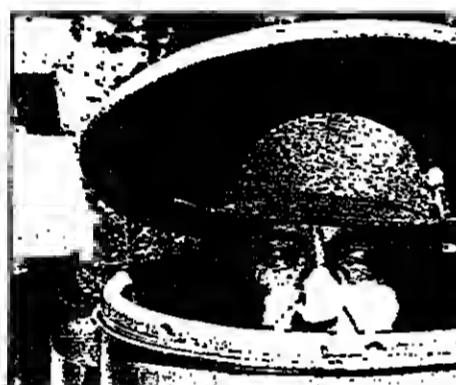
So enduring are the popular drama brands he created that the film giant PolyGram bought ITC last year so that it can exploit the rights to his archives to make new film versions of his classic programmes.

His other great strength in television came from his 20 years as a show-business agent working with variety stars of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. This ex-



Lew Grade, head of a media dynasty. "There are only three things that count in life. One is your family. Two is your health and three is relationship" Keith Dobney

HITS AND MISSES FROM LEW GRADE'S 70 YEARS IN THE BUSINESS



The Pink Panther
One of a successful series of films produced by Grade and starring Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau



Raising the Titanic
"It would have been cheaper to lower the Atlantic," Grade said of the biggest turkey in his long career



Crossroads
The TV soap was one of the series that established Grade's ATV as a keystone of the ITV network



The Saint
The Roger Moore vehicle gave ATV a glamorous image to complement the solid character of Crossroads

perience gave him an eye for talent-spotting and moulded his tastes in the kind of light entertainment which came to dominate ITV's schedules.

From game shows such as the *Golden Shot* to the *Muppets* to *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, he showed how to transport the world of West End variety theatre to the nation's television screens.

As an agent, his biggest client was Frank Sinatra, at whose request he once sent £12,000 in cash to a hotel in Rome with no questions asked.

When at his peak his vast empire included the Midlands-based ATV broadcaster; ITC, a collection of theatres and the company, Northern Songs, which owned the rights to the Beatles' music.

The famous interlinking ovals of Grade's ATV appeared at the end of classic programmes as diverse as *The Muppets*, *Crossroads*, *The*

Saint and *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*.

He once said creating a television schedule was like making up a variety show: "Make sure you have enough different acts so that at least half will appeal to all the audience."

The television skills of the Grade family were passed down to Lord Grade's nephew Michael, who was chief executive of Channel 4, now chief executive of First Leisure.

After a boardroom battle with the Australian millionaire Robert Holmes a Court, Lord Grade lost control of his company and moved into film production in his seventies when he left ATV. He had success with *On Golden Pond* and *The Pink Panther* series. However, his film *Raise the Titanic* was to be one of the most expensive film flops of all time.

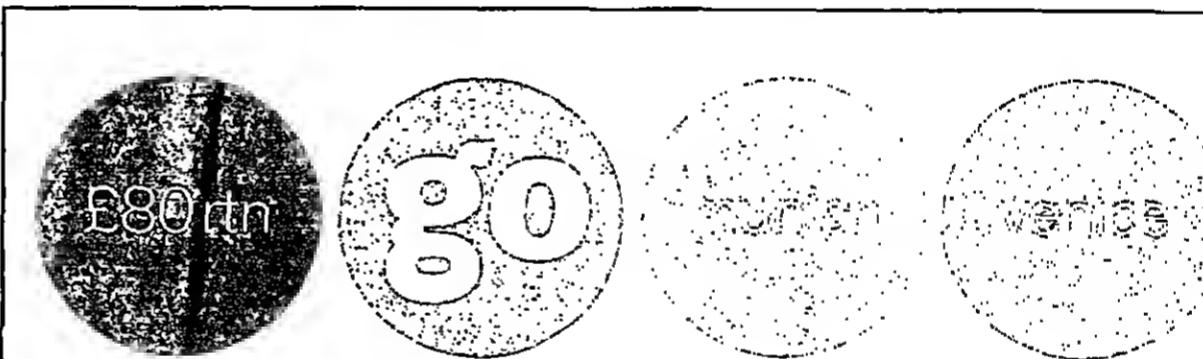
So bad was *Raise the Titanic* that Clive Kussler, the author of the book it was based on,

claimed to have actually watched when he first saw the film.

Lord Puttnam said yesterday that Grade had left it too late to be a great success in the movies: "He would admit it himself, that his instincts and his taste was 15 years out of date." It was an undying enthusiasm for the business which kept him active right up until his recent illness. He was always in his office by 7am and was always looking for another deal. PolyGram recognised his value as a deal-maker and talent-spotter and brought him back to be chairman of ITC when they bought the company.

He was also the target of countless affectionate anecdotes (see panel), the best of which was one he always denied: that to save money on the TV series *Jesus of Nazareth* he ordered that the Messiah be given just six disciples.

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Pubs could stay open to 3am to combat crime

EUROPEANS HAVE always been bemused by our arcane licensing laws whenever they like a late lunch or a drink after the theatre. The police, too, have found closing time problematic as they deal with the nightly bouts of drunken violent crime after last orders.

Now ministers are preparing to back plans to allow Britain's pubs to stay open until 3am to combat the effect of drinking on crime rates in city centres.

In the biggest shake-up in the nation's licensing laws this century, councils will be given the freedom to decide their own closing times for pubs and restaurants in non-residential areas.

The proposals, which are backed by business, are understood to have won the support of the Home Office following studies that showed that up to 50 per cent of city-centre arrests were linked to drunkenness after 11pm.

The public-order issue has emerged as a key influence on ministers during government

consultation on the plans to overhaul the licensing system.

More continental opening hours are also seen as a crucial part of efforts to make London and other large cities more attractive to foreign business people. A decision will not be made before next summer. The central change would be to allow zoning within a city so that residential areas are protected, while pubs in high streets and city centres can remain open until 3am at weekends and 1am on weekdays.

Responsibility for setting hours would rest with local licensing boards rather than magistrates' courts, with the proviso that residents' groups would be allowed to object to some applications.

Last month, the Home Office minister George Howarth, signalled the Government's enthusiasm for reform when he declared that Britain's 140,000 licensed pubs, clubs and

restaurants should be allowed to stay open round the clock every New Year's Eve. Most of the ideas that have won over ministers stem from the Better Regulation Taskforce, a government body set up to find ways of slashing red tape for business.

The zoning system operates effectively in Edinburgh and the idea's backers want to bring England and Wales into line with Scotland.

A Home Office source said: "There is a long way to go in consultation but it is clear that the public-order issue is a very good reason to relax the law."

A White Paper on the changes is likely next autumn and ministers want a Bill in the Queen's Speech in 2000. Changes would not come into force until 2001.

John Grogan, Labour MP for Selby and chairman of the All-Party Commons Liquor Licensing Reform, said he and his supporters would step up the campaign with a series of parliamentary questions in the

New Year. "Most people would like to have a drink after going to the cinema, theatre or out for a meal," he said.

"Relaxing the law would have a civilising influence on English attitudes to drink."

"If you remove the pressure to sink three or four pints in the run-up to closing time, then it is obvious you will cut crime caused by drunkenness."

"In many big cities pubs and clubs are already stretching the law to the limit, staying open by offering food and live entertainment. It is time the law caught up with that reality."

Patrick Kerr, of London First, an umbrella group representing the capital's businesses, said the case for reform was overwhelming.

"We are currently not on the same playing field as other European cities. You can drink until 1am in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Madrid and Paris, so why can't we do it in what is supposed to be the Millennium City?"

New pensions scheme to be 'radical'

ALISTAIR DARLING, the Secretary of State for Social Security, will this week unveil the Government's long-awaited plans to ensure people make adequate financial provision for their retirement.

Since taking over the difficult welfare brief in July, Mr Darling has spent much of his time tip-toeing through the minefield of pensions reform as he sought to put flesh on the very bare bones of the "stakeholder" scheme promised by Labour.

Mr Darling is frustrated that the pensions debate has been

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

dominated by the issue of compulsion. This is due largely to the persistence of Frank Field, who resigned as minister for welfare reform when Mr Darling got the top job at the Department of Social Security.

Mr Field wants a universal scheme, believing the rich would be happy to subsidise the contributions of the poor. But Mr Darling believes this would be seen as a backdoor tax hike on the well-off and insists the Field blueprint is unworkable.

"Compulsion is a one-club

policy" one senior government source said yesterday. "We need a more sophisticated approach which meets individual needs and gives people choice. There is more than one means of achieving the ends."

Mr Darling's scheme may be seen as compulsion in all but name. He planned a "carrot and stick" approach to ensure people realise it is in their financial interest to take out a pension. For example, workers who choose not to provide for their old age even though they could

afford to, will face lower state benefits in retirement than the genuinely poor. This is designed to tackle Mr Field's criticism that without a compulsory system, people have no incentive to provide for themselves because they can rely on the state's safety net.

The Green Paper will contain a stark warning for today's workers, half of whom will have to live on income support in their old age because they have inadequate pension provision. Today, 2.5 million pensioner

families live on less than a third of average earnings, giving them an income of less than £120 a week. The number will double by the year 2025, because 8 million workers are not saving for their retirement.

People need second-tier pensions because the value of the state pension is declining. If the Tories had not stopped updating it with earnings rather than prices in 1979, it would now be worth £27.85 for a single person and £40.60 for a couple, instead of £24.70 and £30.40 respec-

tively. Although demands by pensioners groups to restore the link with earnings are supported by some Labour MPs and grass-roots activists, ministers will refuse to find the billions needed. They point out that Britain's 10.5 million retired people already receive benefits totalling £1.5bn - a third of the welfare budget - and say they want to target extra help at the poorest among them.

Mr Darling may therefore extend a new guaranteed minimum pension, which will ensure an income of at least £75 a week for every single pensioner and £116.60 for a couple from April. A key target is the 1 million old people who do not claim the income support to which they are entitled - many because they are too proud.

But critics claim the scheme is not all that it seems: retired people with other income, such as an occupational pension, will not receive the top-ups, but only the basic state pension. Mr Field fears it will be just a glorified form of income support.

Britain's elderly struggle to cope on the edge of poverty

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

KATHLEEN GOVINDA has been pacing, deep in thought, in front of the chilled meats counter for five minutes. Finally - and triumphantly - she brandishes a packet of chicken and puts it in her trolley. She has managed to find a piece on special offer at £2.59 rather than the £2.99 she was preparing to pay.

Some time later, after a meticulous search of Sainsbury's, she has managed to get her half-weekly shopping bill down to £24.12 by careful choice of own-brands, special deals and cheap foods.

Ask her the price of a packet of biscuits and she will immediately respond: "They're £1.49 - the cheapest ones. I'd love to buy some sweets. Quality Street is my favourite but again they are too expensive."

Kathleen is one of the millions of elderly people in Britain struggling to cope on the edge of poverty in old age. The Independent's Christmas appeal aims to raise funds for the organisations dedicated to helping old people: Age Concern, Action on Elder Abuse and St Christopher's Hospice.

Kathleen, 74, is continually juggling money - she has to live

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on a basic state pension which, topped up by income support, works out at £69.75 a week. Because she is on income support, her council housing rent is paid for but she still has to pay all her bills, including £1.31 a week on water rates and £6 a week towards a telephone bill which will summon an ambulance if she falls ill. She has used it twice already.

Every fortnight she pays £4 to a home-help as well.

Keeping the house warm is also a problem, but as one of the poorest pensioners, she has received a £50 "cold weather" payment which, she says, was "a great relief. That will pay the bills. I didn't expect it so soon and I feel very lucky." She also spends her days at the Sotheby Mews Centre, an Age Concern project, which helps cut the heating bills.

Kathleen, originally from South Africa, worked hard as a

shop assistant and then a manager in a factory. Neither employer offered an occupational pension, which would boost her income now.

With a heart condition and arthritis, Kathleen frequently has hospital appointments. This is fine in the middle of the day when she can use her bus pass, but all too often the appointments are scheduled for 8am so she has to pay £5 for a minicab to take her.

Her food is her main outgoing and it is extremely frugal - cereal in the morning, then she pays £1.55 for a "filling" meal at Sotheby Mews.

In the evening she will make herself a sandwich or have a piece of toast. "I do like vegetables and I eat a lot of those. I don't eat meat that much but I like chicken and fish at the weekend.

"I am very fond of prawns but they are too expensive to

buy. I look for what's on special offer or deals where if you buy one you get one free."

The centre organises a weekly trip to the supermarket because the more expensive prices in local shops are beyond the reach of most pensioners.

Her entertainment is the day centre and her television at home. Her eyes are too bad for her to spend money on newspapers, books or magazines.

"I can't afford to go to the cinema. I prefer to stay in and watch Coronation Street. Sometimes there is a good film on, but you can't sit up waiting for them all night."

"I always watch the news as well. I like to know what is going on in the world."

"I buy essentials. I don't buy luxuries," she says. "Sometimes I feel like buying a little treat but it's always too expensive. It is a bit of a struggle."

I do my best to manage. But I always have to work out how much exactly I'm going to spend and stick to it. It's always a big worry."

Her one treat at Christmas is to buy herself a pair of good sensible shoes that will last her until the next Christmas.

"I've just got to think about what I really need rather than what I want," she says wistfully. "There isn't money for things like presents."

74-year-old Kathleen Govinda seeking the specials in Sainsbury's. Her total weekly income of £69.75 doesn't go far

Philip Morris

Twins, 4, told they must start school or lose place

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

A MOTHER is fighting a council's insistence that her four-year-old twins must start school next month or lose their places.

Beatrice Shaw says the twins, who will be five in May, are not ready for school. She points to a statement from David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, that parents should not be "blackmailed" into sending their children to school before the statutory starting age of five.

Lewisham Council in south London has told Mrs Shaw that Sam and Jordan must move up from the nursery at John Ball Primary School, Blackheath into the school reception class or their places cannot be guaranteed.

Early years experts say that starting formal education too young can be damaging and put children off education for life. Nursery classes are better staffed than reception classes and have special equipment for young children.

Evidence from Europe suggests that children tend to progress faster in those countries where formal education starts later than in Britain.

However, local authorities are under pressure not to allow

parents to defer places because they receive no funding for children who are not at school. Mrs Shaw said that she wanted to delay the twins' entry to school at least until Easter and, ideally, until September when they would need, by law, to be in school. "I am absolutely desperate. I feel that my son, in particular, is not ready for school. It is appalling when a young child's life is at stake and you know it will be damaging for him, to be told that you have to send him to school. There should be flexibility for young children. You can't make these blanket rules."

Early years campaigners

that is what parents want." He pointed out that Mr Blunkett had to approve early years development plans for all authorities by April. These would include admission arrangements.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat's education spokesman, said: "The Government has not thought this through. Local authorities are not obliged and schools cannot afford to allow parents to defer entry."

Wendy Scott, chief executive of Early Education, said some schools and local authorities were catering well for four-year-olds. "But this is a very distressing example. It does appear that the rights of parents to make decisions are being forced out by the system."

Margaret Lochrie, chief executive of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, said: "A lot of four year olds are not ready for formal education. They need a play-based curriculum which will prepare them for learning to read and write."

A spokesman for Lewisham said: "Children start school in January or September. Mrs Shaw would like us to keep her children in nursery school for an extra term. If we do that, it will block up two places which younger children need. It will also mean we keep vacant two places in the primary school which are very much needed."

Welsh constituencies reject Alun Michael

BY TONY HEATH

THE BID by Alun Michael, Secretary of State for Wales, to be elected leader of the Welsh Assembly appeared to be in trouble yesterday when the deadline for nominations closed.

Of the 40 Welsh constituency Labour parties, 22 have nominated Rhodri Morgan, the MP for Cardiff West, with eight backing Mr Michael and the other 10 not stating a preference.

One of the biggest blows to

Mr Michael's campaign was delivered by the Blaenau Gwent Party meeting at Ebbw Vale yesterday. Mr Morgan received 66 votes. Mr Michael 27, and Roger Warren Evans, a Swansea businessman, eight.

The result, determined by an electoral college, will be declared on 20 February.

A Christmas Message

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to all our friends who have generously supported our Hospice during 1998. Your donations have helped to bring care, comfort and support to many patients and their families again this year. May we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE
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Landowner puts walkers on warpath

BY PAUL VALLEY

IT WAS a fine day for walking yesterday. The watery winter sun hung low in the sky. The air was mild and a light breeze stirred the branches of the bare winter trees. But there were no ramblers to be seen on the Sussex Downs paths around the High Cross estate.

Across the road at Peasehouse Common the footpaths were marked with the official little arrows of the Country Landowners' Association (CLA) announcing a "welcome to careful walkers". But over the road the path came to an abrupt end - at a 7ft-high wire fence with three strands of barbed wire across the top.

"Private Property - Keep Out" said the large notice closing off the footpath, which the Ramblers' Association decided on Saturday to make a test case.

It will be in the vanguard of the ramblers' campaign to force the government to fulfil its pledge to establish a "right to roam".

You might have expected, in the circumstances, a genteel cagouled picket line or even a mass-booted trespass. After all, the local authority map shows a right-of-way exists beyond the barbed wire and the ugly barn which the landowner erected 10 years ago across the path.

But the local walkers have been scared off. There was not a single rambler-with-attitude to be seen. And when I asked the chairman of the local branch of the association to take me to the estate he said: "I only wouldn't come, he wouldn't even speak to me on the phone. His wife won't let him. She's scared of physical violence," said Paul Rees, the national ramblers' spokesman. "Some one might be sent to get him."

The man of whom everyone is afraid is Nicholas Van Hoogstraten, the oafish millionaire landowner and former



Oafish millionaire Nicholas Van Hoogstraten (above) and the blocked footpath that the Ramblers Association is using as a test case

slum landlord who specialises in making statements of thin-veiled intimidation. On the *Today* programme on Saturday he said of the hikers, darkly: "I'm not threatening these people. It's just that there may be an occasional incident."

His words gain menace from his background. In the 1960s he was sent to Wormwood Scrubs for four years after hiring thugs to mount a hand-grenade attack on the home of a grenade he claimed owed him £3,000. Certainly he is not the kind of man you would want living next door. But it is also true that this is a man who has often sought to enhance his own notoriety, giving outrageous quotes to enthusiastic journalists: admitting to "bashing" a few of his tenants, but insisting they were "scumbags" who had it coming; insisting that you had to be "a liar, crook and cheat" to succeed in business; or writing an article claiming he used to beat up his mother. They are claims which he tends to withdraw when challenged on the detail.

The tactic works. At the weekend a member of his local parish council fulminated that he "appears immune from normal planning controls". Build-

ings appear: public footpaths disappear; neighbours are threatened, enforcement officers are ejected and alterations abound without any input from us."

But fact and myth are entangled here too. Wealdon District Council insists that Mr Van

Hoogstraten is subject to planning laws like everyone else: officials are due to rule in the next few days on his request for amendments to the plans for the 126,000 sq ft mansion he calls Hamilton Palace which he is building on the estate overlooking the Uckfield by-pass.

It is said to be the most expensive private house to be built in Britain this century. But despite its £30m price-tag, only half a dozen people are working on it, according to locals.

None of which is to say that

Mr Van Hoogstraten is not a nasty piece of work. Only that

his nastiness might this time not get him as far as it has before. The decision by the Ramblers' Association to begin legal proceedings has called his bluff. But it may yet take the intervention of local, or even national, government before the footpath is open once again.

Nigel Bowles



SPENDING POWER

THE Third Reich was supposed to last 1,000 years. Nicholas Van Hoogstraten has larger ambitions. The palace that he is building on his estate in East Sussex has been designed to last for five millennia.

But this former slum landlord has always thought big. He bought his first property, in the Bahamas, at the age of 16 with money he made from selling his stamp collection. By 23, he was a millionaire, with 350 properties in Sussex alone. Hamilton Palace, nearing completion on his High Cross Estate, is intended to be the largest and most expensive private home built in Britain this century. It will include a vast mausoleum to house his remains and a 600ft-long art gallery.

Van Hoogstraten, who owns homes in Cannes, Monte Carlo, Maryland and Florida, already has a place in the Guinness Book of Records. In 1981 he received a tax demand for £5.4 million, the largest ever issued by the Inland Revenue. The public will never be allowed into Hamilton Palace, he has said. After his death, the building will be sealed forever. He explained: "The only purpose in creating great wealth like mine is to separate oneself from the riff-raff."

Move made to halt hoarding for 2000

THE CABINET Office yesterday sought to dissuade people from hoarding food next year over fears about the millennium bug, saying there is "no reason to expect" disruption to supermarkets or essential services.

But *The Independent* has learnt that next year Action 2000, the official group charged with getting businesses to tackle the bug, intends running an advertising campaign to "frighten" people over the possibilities of the problem, which, it says, could lead to the loss of millions of jobs.

The Cabinet Office's move followed a newspaper report yesterday quoting Gwyneth Flower, head of Action 2000, suggesting people stock up with long-life milk, tinned food and biscuits - "the sort of common-sense provisions you would automatically do to ensure against any potential emergency".

Action 2000 called the report "misleading" and said "there is no need for anyone to consider stockpiling", adding that there is "no reason to expect any material disruption" to

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

a bug issue. We are probably talking about a 10 or 11-day holiday at the end of 1999," said a spokesman. "The American Red Cross were saying that because of the holiday period people will have to stock up on essential items because the shops won't be open."

But the Cabinet Office is doing a survey to evaluate bug awareness and plans a mass leafletting campaign in spring. Last month, Action 2000 produced a leaflet for households suggesting ways to check if they would be affected, and is planning an advertising campaign emphasising the unavoidable deadline. The last time Britons hoarded supplies was in the 1970s, during random power cuts.

Robin Guenier, head of Taskforce 2000, criticised Action 2000's tactics: "A little bit of panic might be a good idea. If people get used to the idea of this, that could be helpful. But having one thing said one day and another the next just creates a lack of confidence."

Leading article, Review, page 3

MILLENNIUM BUG: MYTHS AND REALITIES



at that "rollover" moment. **Reality:** Some problems have arisen (and been resolved) and more are going to crop up next year, especially in April, when the 99/00 financial year starts. The effect may be like a snow flurry turning into a blizzard - at first it seems amusing, then it becomes dangerous.

Myth 4: My video is going

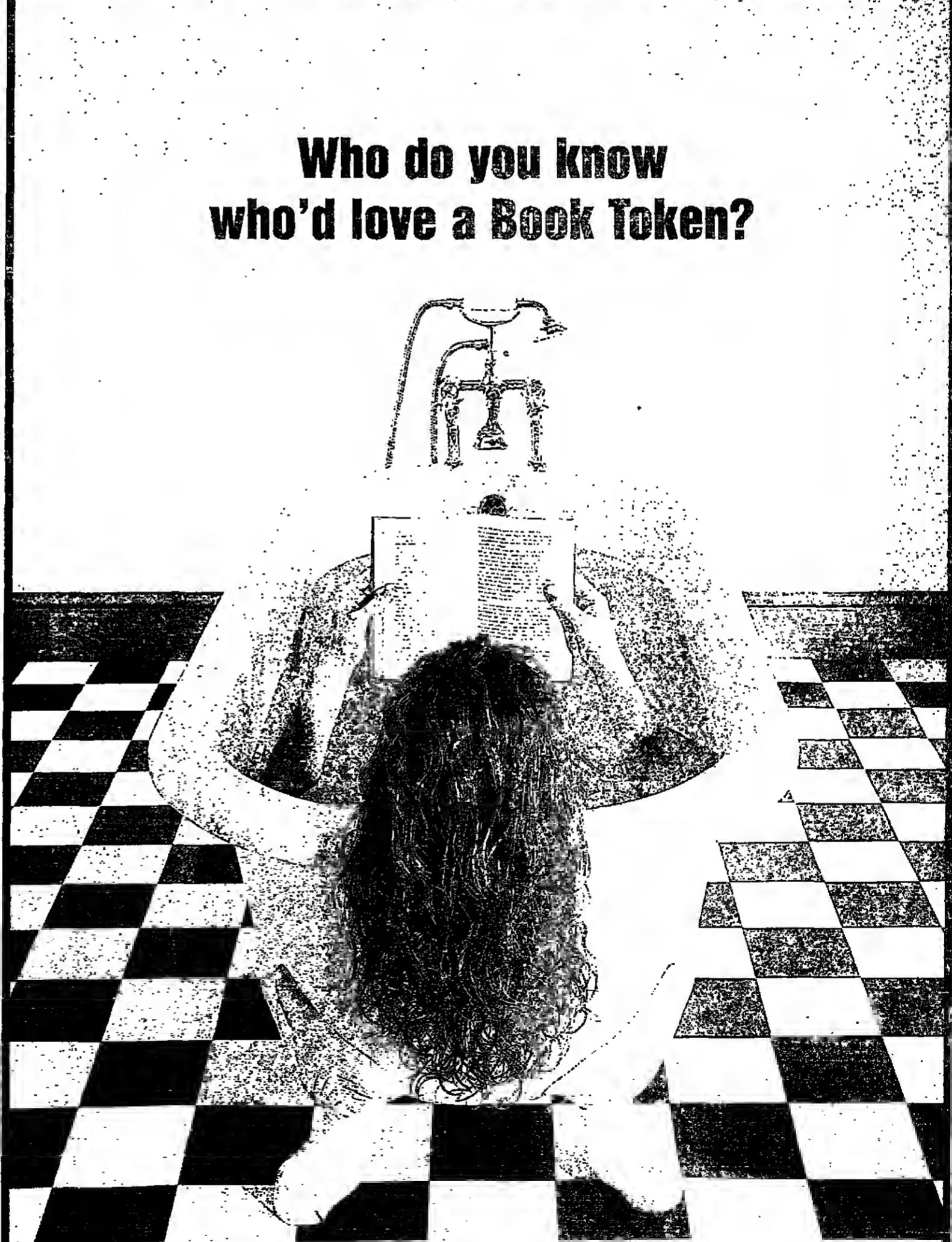
to get microwaved as everything in my home goes haywire.

Reality: Most electronic items in the home use a 24-hour rollover clock, so most items will notice no difference. A few videos could be affected: mostly these are very ancient models.

Myth 5: Nuclear power stations will blow up.

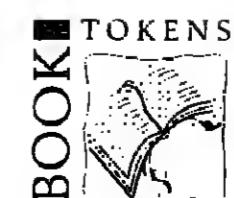
Reality: It is far more likely that if anyone is worried, they will be taken off-line and shut down instead, though that could have a significant effect at a time when power demand is traditionally high.

Charles Arthur, and Robin Guenier of Taskforce 2000



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THE GIFT OF READING

Hospitals warned of blood shortage

EVERY HOSPITAL in England has been issued with instructions on how to conserve blood to head off a crisis in the National Blood Service.

Hospitals need 10,000 half-litre units of blood a day and demand is rising at a time when donors are proving harder to find. Pressure to meet Government waiting list targets combined with declining public confidence in blood because of safety fears has pushed the service to the limit.

In a circular to the NHS on blood issued on Friday, the

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

health department says all hospitals must establish new rules for blood transfusion and seek ways of using patients' own blood to reduce dependence on that given by donors by March 2000.

The latest move to shore up the ailing National Blood Service comes after a year in which it has suffered major blows. In July the Government announced that all donated blood would be screened for

CJD, more than doubling the cost of collecting it to £23.50 a unit.

Earlier, in February, the Government ruled that all blood products should be made from plasma imported from abroad, slashing an important source of income for the service. Public confidence had already been damaged by earlier rows about the sale of blood plasma to other countries, a scandal involving leaking blood bags, and an unpopular reorganisation which was the subject of a damning report earlier this

year, which led to the sacking of the chairman and the departure of the chief executive.

The blood service was so worried about the effect on donors that it commissioned a report from the King's Fund on attitudes to altruism published last month. It claimed in the report that there was "no evidence that the donor pool was shrinking dramatically" but admitted that increasing numbers of would-be donors were being rejected because of more stringent checks, for example because they might be at risk

of HIV or hepatitis. Demand for blood is rising at 3 to 4 per cent a year as hospitals treat more patients. Ministers have a manifesto pledge to cut waiting lists and have committed hundreds of millions of pounds to the cause. That means more patients to be treated, more operations performed and more blood used.

The circular says there is wide variation among doctors over the amount of blood ordered suggesting some is "used unnecessarily". It says transfusion commit-

tees should be set up to monitor blood use in every hospital and introduce protocols to reduce wastage and improve safety.

Of 169 "serious hazards" reported last year, it says 81 involved patients being given the wrong blood while only eight involved infection.

Alternatives to the use of donated blood include autologous blood transfusion, in which patients give blood several weeks before their operation which is stored and then given back to them during surgery. However,

"There is a crisis. Demand for blood is ever increasing and the number of donors being excluded for safety reasons is rising. There is a real problem."

A spokesman for the health department said: "What we are trying to achieve is better use of an invaluable resource which is not in plentiful supply."

"We will continue to appeal for more blood donations as the NHS gets through more work. But we need to explore every single way of making better use of what we have got."

Europe set to curb farm antibiotics

THE MINISTER of Agriculture, Nick Brown, is expected to vote today on European farm ministers to ban four antibiotics from use in animal feed, amidst growing opposition to the widespread use of the drugs.

The EU's farming chief, Franz Fischler, proposed the ban after being told by scientific experts that antibiotics were becoming less effective as medical treatments because people were ingesting them in meat and creating bacteria resistant to them.

The antibiotics are fed to battery-farmed animals to encourage growth and deter long-standing infections. Pharmaceutical companies, which stand to lose £220m if the ban comes into force in January, have mounted a fierce lobbying campaign against it.

The purpose of the EU ban is "to minimise the risk of development of (antibiotic) resistant bacteria and to preserve the efficacy of antibiotics used in human medicine". No new antibiotics have been developed since the Seventies, and more and more "resistant" strains of bacteria are appearing in hospitals, where doctors are forced to keep back certain varieties of drugs as measures of last resort. Now the spiralling use of antibiotics in agriculture has triggered fears that animal use will also affect humans. Already, one type of the food poisoning bacterium salmonella - often found in eggs - is now resistant to more than one antibiotic, while many other types of it are immune to up to five drugs.

A report last week by the Soil Association, which represents organic farmers in the UK, found that the use of antibiotics

BY CHARLES ARTHUR AND
CATHERINE COMERFORD

such as tetracycline and penicillin had increased by up to 150 times in the past 30 years, even though it was meant to fall. "We must create a new climate... in which animals are kept in more natural, less stressful conditions and are routinely treated with respect, rather than antibiotics," it said.

The drugs companies have responded rapidly. Alpharma, a multinational company which makes one of the four antibiotics under threat - bacitracin - commissioned Dutch research which, it said, "found the use of bacitracin as a feed additive in animals does not cause adverse human health effects".

Pfizer, which makes another of the listed antibiotics - virginiamycin - is suing the Danish government over its decision to ban the product from cattle feed. It has also lodged a protest with the EC objecting to the proposed Europe-wide ban. Virginiamycin is added to feed to promote growth. But it also has similar properties to another antibiotic combination, quinupristin/dalfopristin, which doctors had hoped could be used to treat resistant infections in humans. The antibiotics on the EU list are: bacitracin, virginiamycin, spiramycin and tylosin phosphate.

Refana, which represents feed manufacturers, said adding antibiotics to animal food "is safe and has contributed significantly to improvements in animal welfare". Yesterday a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Agriculture said Britain will vote "based on the scientific evidence".



Mick Nash gets ready for the unveiling of a digital sign to replace the Coca-Cola neon display which has hung in London's Piccadilly Circus for 44 years Neville Elder

Man dies, 3 missing as dinghy capsizes

THE TINY community of Iona was in mourning yesterday after one man drowned and another three were feared dead when a dinghy capsized off the Scottish island.

The men were travelling home to Iona after attending a dinner and dance on the neighbouring island of Mull when their dinghy overturned in the early hours in hulky conditions.

The body of one of the five men was discovered washed ashore and several items of men's clothing was discovered. "We have been searching for

them all day but there is no sign. By this stage you have to say hopes are fading," said a spokesman for HM Coastguard last night.

The alarm was raised at 4.15am yesterday after the survivor, Gordon Grant, the son of a local businessman, scrambled ashore and woke up a farmer. Mr Grant was yesterday being treated for hypothermia at a hospital on Tobermory, Mull.

The man whose body was re-

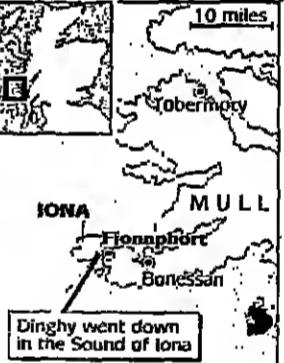
covered was named last night as Robert Hay, 23, of Iona. The men who remain missing were named as Logie MacFadyen, 24, of Laggan Dorain; Alasdair Dougal, 19, of Iona and David Kilpatrick, 23, of Iona.

They were returning from a dance at the Argyll Arms Hotel at Bunessan and had launched their 14ft dinghy from the tiny port of Fionnphort to return across the Sound of Iona, about half-a-mile.

Islanders yesterday spent

the day helping the rescue services. The community, famous for its role in the spread of Christianity, usually numbers around 200.

"Everybody on Iona will be devastated, stunned," said Argyll Arms proprietor Duncan MacLeod. "We know the lads reasonably well. One of the lads wasn't drinking at all, and some of the others were going out fishing today. I certainly would not say they were drunk when they left."



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IN BRIEF

Call for GM food moratorium

GREEN GROUPS have renewed calls for the Government to impose a moratorium on the commercial release of genetically modified foods after a report written for the Department of the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture said the crops posed a threat to the environment.

Old woman hammers burglar

A BURGLAR pleaded to be let out of an 81-year-old woman's home when she began beating him on the head with a hammer. The burglar had forced his way into the woman's house in Billingham, near Middlesbrough, on Saturday night, armed with a piece of wood.

Labour Party merger in Ireland

IRELAND'S LABOUR Party has set itself the target of becoming the second largest party in the state following its weekend merger with the radical Democratic Left. Labour leader Ruairi Quinn said it was now "feasible" to aim for over 40 Dail seats in the next general election.

£75,000 cost of young offenders

THE AVERAGE young offender in custody costs Britain more than £75,000, with the total cost at least £190m, says the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders and The Prince's Trust. They say raising educational performance would be more cost-effective.

27 held in immigration inquiry

POLICE YESTERDAY arrested 27 foreign nationals after they were seen getting out of three Spanish-registered lorries parked on the M40. The men, women and children, believed to be illegal immigrants, were detained on the hard shoulder near Postcombe, Oxon.

One ticket wins Lottery £9m

A SINGLE ticket holder scooped Saturday's £9,110,738 National Lottery jackpot. The numbers were 46, 38, 28, 41, 26 and 39. The bonus ball was 25.

STEVE RICHARDS

With this Government, keep your eye on the reality, not the rhetoric

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW

PAGE 3

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Skylark to join roll call of the extinct

SKYLARKS, SONG thrushes and water voles, some of the most potent symbols of the countryside, will all vanish from Britain in the next few years, the World Wide Fund for Nature claims in a report today.

So rapid has been their recent decline that their extinction can now be foreseen, the WWF says, and it is unavoidable unless drastic steps are taken to save them.

In *Domesday for Wildlife*, the fund predicts a swath of extinctions across the United Kingdom. It takes the rates of decline of seven familiar British wildlife species and projects them forward – in most cases they hit zero alarmingly soon.

Skylarks, which have been catastrophically affected by changes in farming practice, will disappear in 2009 if nothing is done to reverse their deterioration, the WWF says.

Song thrushes, which 25 years ago were one of our most common birds and are now increasingly rare, will go even

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

earlier, by 2006. And the water vole – loved as Ratty in Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*, put a species now much reduced by American mink which have escaped from fur farms – will disappear earlier still, by 2003.

Other species are also on the 'disappearing list'. The high brown fritillary butterfly will go in five years' time, while the pipistrelle bat will be extinct by 2007, the WWF says.

The grey partridge will be gone by 2011 while another butterfly, the marsh fritillary, is on course for extinction by 2020.

The causes of many of the declines are changes in agricultural techniques, such as the move to winter crops and greater pesticide use, and the change from baymaking to silage. With silage, the grass is cut in June while species are still nesting, rather than in Au-

gust, when they are finished.

The WWF says that it has used the Government's figures to plot the rates of decline, and that the moves towards extinction are expected to accelerate over the next 20 years, with the effects of climate change, growing development pressures and the continued

threat of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy.

The only way of halting the declines, it says, is to introduce protection for the disappearing habitats that the species depend upon.

"The dramatic decline and extinction of our native species

is a sad reflection of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and its inability to protect our natural heritage," said Carol Hatton, the planning officer for the WWF-UK. "We must have stronger legal protection before it's too late."

The WWF said it was disappointed that a new wildlife Bill

was not introduced this year and is calling for wildlife legislation to be included in the 1999 Queen's Speech.

However, this will come too late for some species. The WWF is announcing today that a British bee, the short-haired bumble bee, is now extinct.

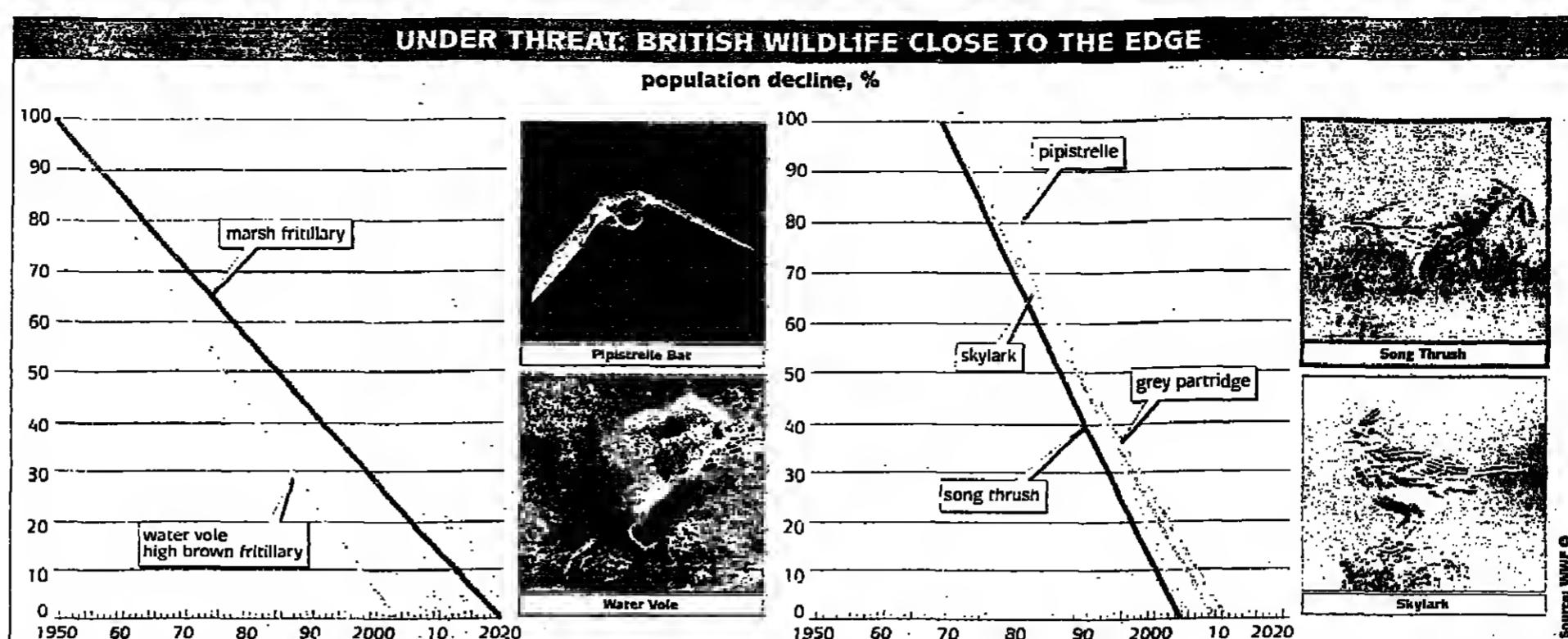
The last reported sighting

was near Dungeness in Kent in the early Eighties and after two years of intensive survey work, no trace of the insect was found.

The total number of wildlife species to have become extinct in Britain this century is now 154, the WWF says.

These include flowers such as the alpine butterwort (1900)

and summer lady's tresses (1954); insects such as the dainty damselfly (1953) and the Essex emerald moth (1991); and many other species, including mammals (the mouse-eared bat, 1980) birds (the Kentish plover, 1935) and fish (the burbot, some time in the Seventies).



Patients 'face genetic tests exploitation'

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

LACK OF funds to pay for genetic testing on the NHS will create a thriving market for private companies to exploit anxious patients, according to a report published today by a social policy think-tank.

The Institute for Public Policy Research claimed that the NHS was "sleepwalking into a genetic future" because of its lack of planning over new tests that will soon become widely available.

"Unless the NHS acts swiftly it could be usurped by private companies providing 'inappropriate' genetic tests to anxious patients via post and the Internet. This is already apparent in the US," the institute said.

"Driven by profit, private companies have no obligation to provide essential counselling and after-care treatment, the report said.

A commercial market in genetic tests could inflate inappropriate demand, fuel public anxiety, leave the NHS to pick up the pieces, and fail to respect confidentiality, said the institute.

A separate report by the Wellcome Trust, the largest research charity in Britain, found that some families affected by genetic disorders have already felt unfairly discriminated against by the insurance industry.

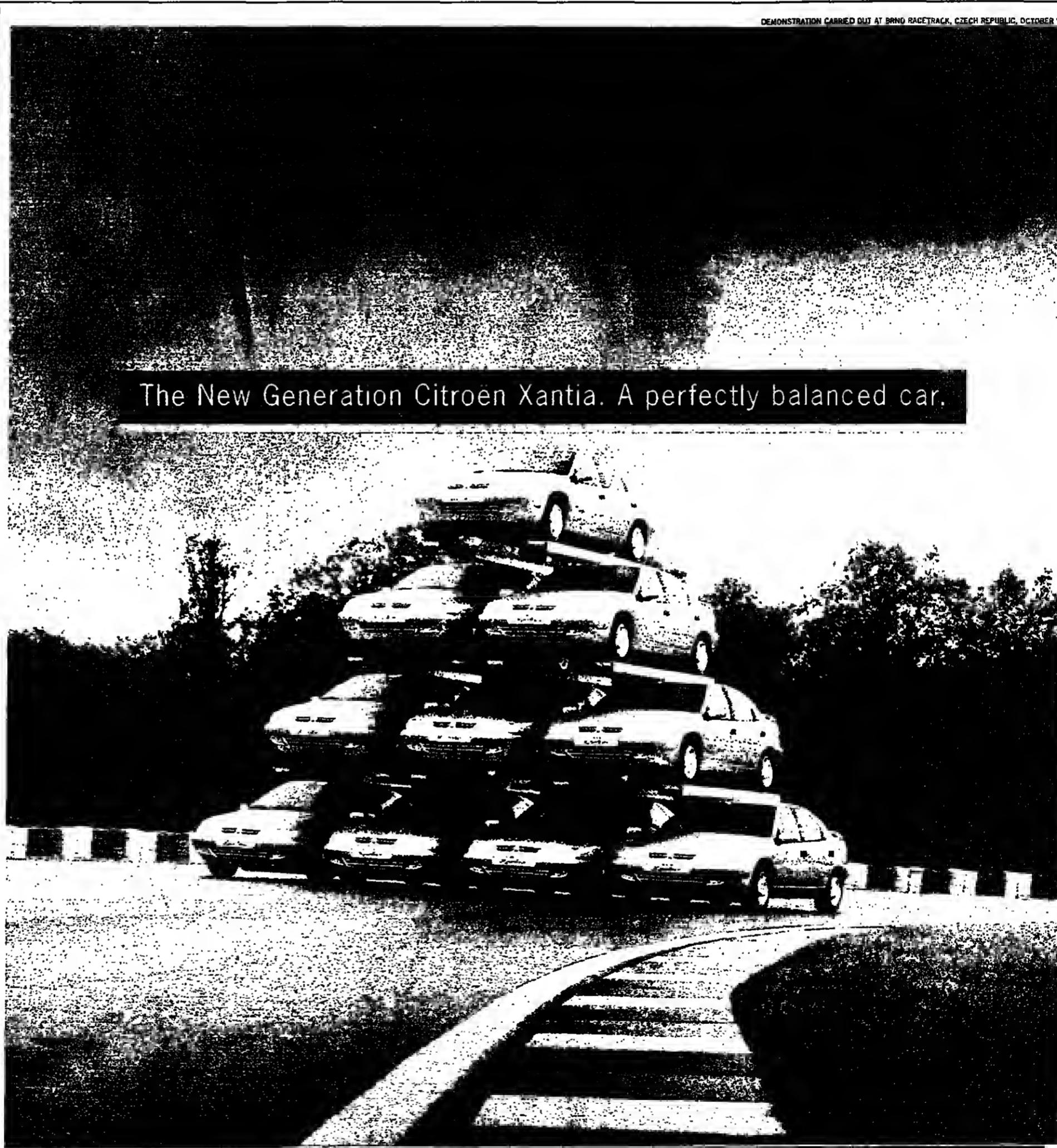
A survey of 7,000 family members found that a third of those sampled experienced difficulty obtaining life insurance, yet 13 per cent of these cases posed no higher-than-average risk.

Doctors already use a number of genetic tests for a limited range of inherited disorders, such as cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease and certain cancers that run in families.

However, new developments in human genetics are also likely to produce tests that can predict a person's predisposition to diabetes, heart disease, arthritis and Alzheimer's disease.

Jo Lenaghan, the author of the report, *Beyond New NHS*, said the NHS almost exclusively carried out all the genetic testing in Britain, with the family doctor acting as the "gatekeeper" to the service.

"What if this gateway to genetic services is kept shut, and the NHS is unable or unwilling to meet predicted demand?" she said. The failure



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Asylum-seeker in last-ditch appeal

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

A BUSINESSMAN who has lived in Britain for 16 years after being abandoned by his family when he was a teenager, should learn today whether he will be deported back to Nigeria.

Today's hearing at the Court of Appeal is the last chance for Ben James, a 29-year-old commodities broker, to remain in Britain. He said yesterday that he would rather die than go back to Nigeria, where he has

no family or any home to go to.

Despite a government announcement in July that all asylum-seekers who arrived before 1993 would be given leave to stay, immigration officers are pressing to deport Mr James, arguing his case was being examined before the switch in policy.

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White House plots strategy to avert Senate trial

AS THE prospect of enforced removal from office looms over President Bill Clinton following the passage of four articles of impeachment by the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee at the weekend, the White House was gearing up yesterday for three days of intense lobbying before the House of Representatives reconvenes on Thursday.

The House, which is in recess, has been summoned back to Washington for only the second vote of its kind in history.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

on whether articles of impeachment should be forwarded to the Senate and the President should stand trial. A simple majority for any of the four articles would ensure a trial in the Senate, which could open as soon as 11 January.

But, as both sides agree, there is everything to play for. Although the Republicans have a 21-seat majority in the House, the outcome of this week's vote

is too close to predict and if members have no censure option to choose as a middle way, they have a straight choice: a Senate trial or impeachment or nothing.

By the end of the week Mr Clinton's reputation as the Houdini president will be confirmed and he will be one of the most shamed presidents in history. If the vote goes in favour of a Senate trial there is general agreement it would not result in his removal. Impeachment requires a two-thirds majority

67 or the 100 Senators - and even if the vote went strictly along party lines, the Republican majority of nine would be insufficient. In the past week, however, the White House has seemed increasingly worried about the effect of a Senate trial and less philosophical about toughing it out to the end.

Between now and Thursday, Clinton supporters will be doing their utmost to ensure the former. One possibility is to try to revive a censure motion on the floor of the House. De-

mocrats hope the combination of public support for Mr Clinton and worries about the destabilising effect of a Senate trial on the running of the country might convince Republicans to settle for something less than impeachment. Mr Clinton has said he would accept a rebuke. But the omens are not good. Constitutionally, it is uncertain whether a motion dismissed in committee can be revived in the full house, and the idea now seems to be in decline. Crying wolf about the unsettling effects

of a Senate trial cuts both ways, as Democrats found last week, when the stock market started to fall at the prospect.

The White House appeared yesterday to be retrenching. With many senior staff in the Middle East with Mr Clinton and not due back until late tomorrow, their strategy was on hold. Mr Clinton insists the matter is out of his hands, which did not stop his last-minute broadcast to the nation on Friday and might not discourage him from another in-

tervention on the eve of the vote. Some suggested Hillary Clinton might make a broadcast on his behalf, but there seemed little substance to that view.

What remained to the White House was a continuation of tactics employed at other points in the Monica Lewinsky affair: the brute political force of arm-twisting and inducements. Two particularly vocal Republican members of the Judiciary Committee said last week they had been smeared and blamed the White House.

Mr Clinton and aides were said to be calling key Democratic Congress members to minimise defections. Yesterday he said he was open to talking to any Congress member who wanted to discuss the case but would not call anyone who did not first express an interest. At least one of his defenders on the Judiciary Committee, the populist Maxine Waters, of Los Angeles, proposed pro-Clinton demonstrations by blacks to capitalise on his popular support.

Clinton flies in to rescue Mid-East deal

BILL CLINTON began his attempt to revive the Wye Plantation peace accords yesterday at the start of his three-day visit to Israel and Gaza which White House aides tried to get the US President to cancel up to the last minute.

At the end of his first talks with Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, President Clinton called on the Palestinian Authority to quell demonstrations and said he would ask Congress to allocate \$1.2bn (£750m) to implement the peace agreement.

Mr Netanyahu said Israel will not continue its partial withdrawal from the West Bank unless the Palestinians, led by Yasser Arafat, renounce their plans unilaterally to declare a Palestinian state.

"No one can seriously expect Israel to hand over an inch of territory unless and until such an unambiguous correction is made," he said.

President Clinton's big test comes tomorrow in Gaza, where he will address the 600-strong Palestine National Council (PNC), the body which represents about 6 million Palestinians scattered across the world.

Mr Netanyahu and Mr

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

Arafat have exchanged bitter words about the nullification by this body of anti-Israel clauses in the Palestinian charter.

Mr Netanyahu has noisily insisted that the PNC must revoke the clauses to which he objects by a vote, while Mr Clinton called on the Palestinian Authority to quell demonstrations and said he would ask Congress to allocate \$1.2bn (£750m) to implement the peace agreement.

If the charter is revoked in a form acceptable to the United States and to Israel, President Clinton and Mr Netanyahu will both be able to claim a victory. Both leaders are in need of one: President Clinton wants a successful visit to counter-balance the impeachment proceedings in Congress, while Mr Netanyahu wants to show to his own hard right, which could vote him out of power, that he has gained serious concessions from the Palestinians.

The talks in Jerusalem opened in an atmosphere of violence. There were riots outside Rachel's Tomb at the entrance to Bethlehem, in which three Palestinians were injured. In the north of the West Bank, a 17-year-old Jewish girl in the settlement of Shavei Shomron was injured in a knife attack by a 15-year-old Palestinian girl.

Much of central Jerusalem has been closed to traffic around the Hilton Hotel, where President Clinton is staying. Israel has mobilised 15,000 troops and police, while Mr Clinton has brought an entourage of 1,200.

In Jewish settlements on the West Bank there is little sign that the hard right will countenance any Israeli withdrawal. At Alon Shvut, a rapidly expanding settlement of 400 families that is part of a wedge of Jewish settlements at Gush Etzion, south of Jerusalem, Nina Brander, 65, who had lived there 30 years, said: "Clinton is not wanted here. I don't call this a peace process, but a process of annihilation."

Mrs Brander said she was not concerned with the outcome of the peace negotiations: "In the long run there will be war whatever happens," she said. "Little girls in Palestinian schools sing songs about wiping out the Jews. They cheered when the Iraqis fired missiles at Tel Aviv during the Gulf War."

She said the problem was that, while many on President Clinton's staff were Jewish, they were "Jewish traitors".

Other settlers are less extreme. But the hard religious right has shown since the Oslo accords were first reached that it will stop at nothing to hold on to the West Bank.

In 1995, Yigal Amir, a religious student, shot dead Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, as a traitor to Israel for giving up land that God gave to the Jews.

Talit Zell, 18, another resident of the Alon Shvut settlement, said: "I don't want to give up land. But not giving it up is

dangerous, too. I want peace."

At the other end of the settlement, cranes were at work building large new houses as part of the government's construction drive around Manger Square for the presidential visit. American flags snapped in the breeze beside the Palestinian flag outside every shop. Mohammed Mahmoud, a water engineer, nego-

tiating his way across heaps of rubble, said he hoped Mr Clinton's visit "will bring a Palestinian state nearer".

But he said this would not do him personally much good. His main pleasure in the US President's visit was that "the Israelis are against it - Netanyahu wants to give us nothing".

Bill Clinton at a Hanukkah menorah candle-lighting ceremony at the residence of Israeli President Ezer Weizman in Jerusalem yesterday AP

Puerto Ricans go to polls on joining US

THE PEOPLE of Puerto Rico were voting in a referendum yesterday on whether their Caribbean island, which fell into American hands 100 years ago as spoils of the Spanish-American War, should seek to become fully integrated into the United States.

As polling came to a close last night the result was too close to call. Ballot papers offered voters five options, including one for independence as a sovereign nation. Only two of the options were expected to win significant support: one to petition the US for full statehood and another to retain the island's current status as a commonwealth of the US.

The issue is emotive for the island, which has a population of 3.8 million. Supporters of statehood argue that, as a commonwealth, Puerto Ricans are second-class citizens who live under American cultural domination without the chance to vote in US elections or affect American politics.

Leading the statehood camp is the Governor, Pedro Rossello.

"Keep the political inferiority, keep the economic limitations, keep the social dependency, that's what commonwealth has meant to Puerto Rico as a transitory and territorial status," he said.

But opponents of the campaign believe that, as a commonwealth, the island has the best of all worlds - close association with the US and the benefits of federal funding while at the same time retaining a patina of national identity. Puerto

Rico, for instance, has its own Olympic team.

The island was under Spanish rule for 400 years before it was ceded to the US in 1898. The present commonwealth status was conferred on Puerto Rico in 1952. Yesterday's was the third referendum on statehood in 30 years. The last time, in 1983, statehood lost by two percentage points.

Victory for the statehood campaign would mark only the start of a difficult constitutional battle.

To become the 51st state of America, Puerto Rico would have to win the support of the US Congress, a task that would probably not prove easy.

Members of Congress may worry, for example, about the impact on the Union of adding to it a state that is entirely Spanish-speaking.

IN BRIEF

HO found in Algiers mass grave

THE ALGERIAN authorities have discovered the remains of about 110 people, believed to be victims of Islamic rebels, after excavations in a mass grave near the capital Algiers, the local daily *Liberté* said. The excavation in a well at an orange grove 12 miles southwest of Algiers had been a base of the Armed Islamic Group.

Habibie calls for religious calm

PRESIDENT HABIBIE of Indonesia has called on fellow Muslims to help the Christian minority protect its churches against attack. Twenty-two churches were burned in one day last month after tensions erupted between both sides. President Habibie said fighting among religions was against the tenets of Islam.

China detains dissidents

TWO DISSIDENTS were detained and one student has disappeared in China's province of Zhejiang, the Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said. One man who printed 500 copies of a work on a pro-democracy activist and the vice-chairman of the China Democratic Party's Hubei branch were taken from their homes.

Rocket kills 15 in Kabul

A ROCKET barrage in the Afghan capital Kabul killed at least 15 people and wounded scores more. No one took responsibility, but the rockets came from north of the city where anti-Taliban fighters loyal to ousted military chief Ahmed Shah Massood are deployed.

Pensioner robs gypsy beggar girl

AN ITALIAN pensioner of 66 was caught after robbing a 10-year-old gypsy girl who had been begging in a busy Rome shopping street. The girl shouted "thief, thief" after the man made off with her bag of small change. Police caught the man.

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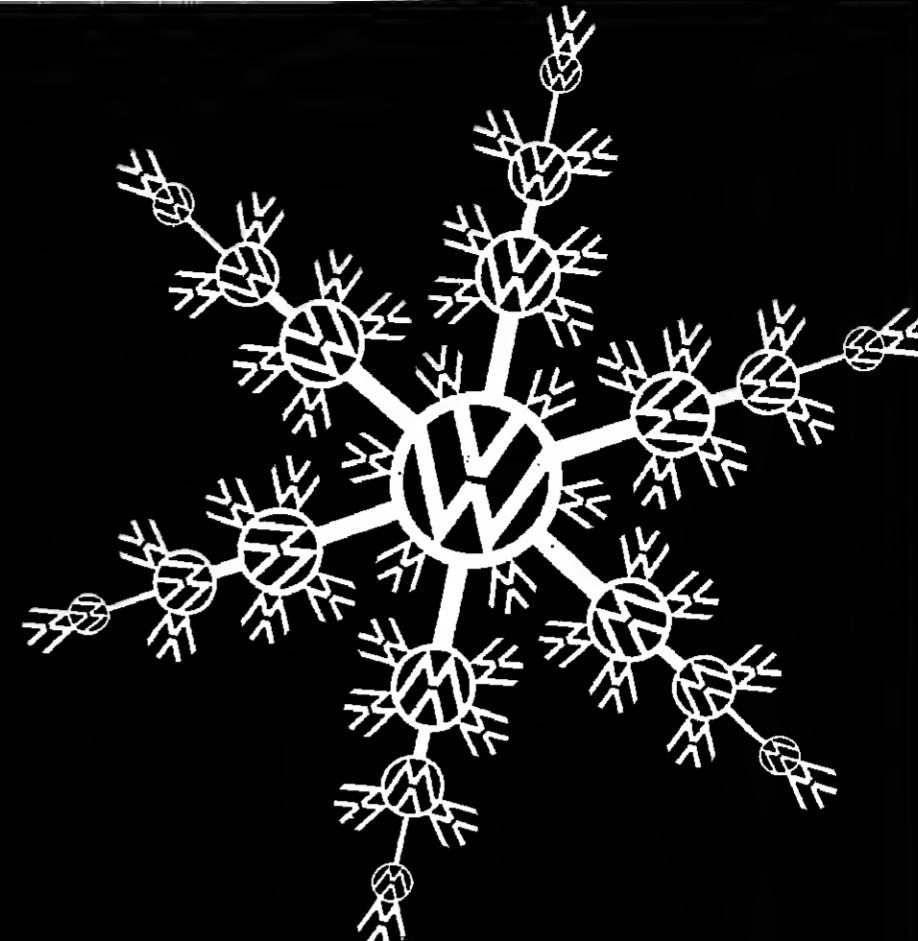
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Oil cutbacks move closer

THE PROSPECT of agreement over production cuts among Opec members drew slightly closer over the weekend after major oil producers Saudi Arabia and Venezuela agreed to meet non-Opec Mexico in Madrid this week, to discuss curbs amid the deepening petroleum market crisis.

Last week, Gulf Arab oil states agreed to extend output cuts until the end of 1999 and urged others to do the same.

One Opec delegate said: "The indications are that the new Venezuelan administration will work with other Opec states to raise prices higher and they will be less concerned with market share." Venezuela's position matters because Mexico and Saudi Arabia, its rivals for the vast United States market, are unlikely to make deeper supply cuts unless Caracas matches them.

Two earlier rounds of cuts masterminded by the three producers this year have failed to boost prices, which, at just under \$10 a barrel, are at their lowest since 1976.

Murdoch in Italian pay-TV deal



TELECOM ITALIA and media magnate Rupert Murdoch (pictured) are reported to have finally reached a deal on a digital pay-TV venture, handing Murdoch's News Corp Europe a 70 per cent controlling stake.

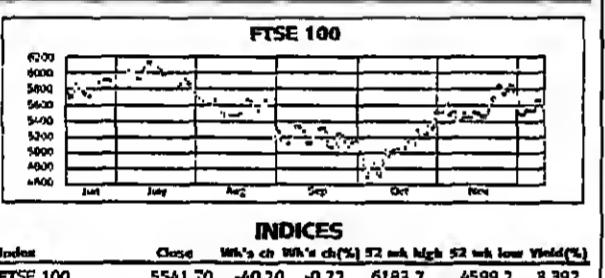
Telecom's managing director, Franco Bernabe, is expected to unveil the deal to the board tomorrow and immediately

afterwards to shareholders at a meeting in Turin. News Corp Europe, a unit of Murdoch's News Corp empire, would take 70 per cent of Telecom's loss-making television unit Stream, the vehicle for the new digital satellite venture. Telecom would have 20 per cent. Industry sources said Mr Murdoch is prepared to offer \$500m a year for the digital rights for all 38 Serie A and Serie B soccer clubs for five years from next season.

Asian crisis still hurting

THE FALLOUT from the Asian crisis is not over yet, according to research by the Economist Intelligence Unit's Country Risk Service published today. Its latest "Risk Ratings Review" identifies 22 countries as "losers" - those whose ratings have declined by 4 points or more - in the past three months, making it the worst quarter since the review began at the start of 1997. The EIU concluded that emerging markets would continue to be influenced by the knock-on effects of the crises in Asia and Russia and vulnerability of Brazil to a sharp devaluation.

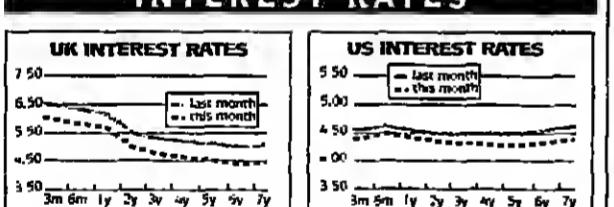
STOCK MARKETS



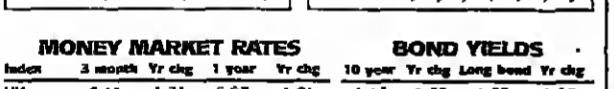
INDICES

Index	Close	Wk's ch	Mo's ch	3mth	6mth	12mth	Yr ago	World (%)
FTSE 100	5511.70	-0.20	-0.22	6183.7	4599.2	3,923		
FTSE 250	4236.90	-1.30	-0.20	5970.9	4247.6	4,671		
FTSE 350	2636.50	-1.20	-0.65	2969.1	2210.4	3,617		
FTSE All Share	2536.27	-1.16	-0.63	2686.632	2143.53	3,667		
FTSE Small Cap	2012.60	-5.20	-0.20	2793.8	1834.4	4,174		
FTSE Prolong	1133.60	-1.50	-0.13	1517.1	1045.2	3,004		
FTSE All M	800.10	-0.90	-0.11	1146.9	761.3	3,002		
FTSE EPICL 100	916.03	-1.10	-0.11	1146.9	761.3	3,002		
Dow Jones	8231.76	-194.35	-2.15	9280.2	7400.1	1,696		
Nikkei	14616.64	-234.33	-1.60	17372.95	12781.9	1,617		
Hang Seng	9292.00	-111.16	-0.11	11292.16	6524.29	3,13		
Dax	4536.20	-239.03	-5.01	6217.83	3833.71	1,959		

INTEREST RATES



US INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 months	Yr chg	1 year	Yr chg	10 years	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.41	-1.31	5.87	-1.94	4.45	-0.35	1.85	-1.88
US	5.22	-0.72	4.97	-1.09	4.62	...	5.02	...
Japan	0.46	-0.28	0.54	-0.18	1.30	-0.62	3.07	-0.46
Germany	3.36	-0.40	3.21	-0.88	3.78	-1.54	4.64	-1.74

BOND YIELDS

Index	Friday	Wk's ch	Yr ago	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next fixg
Brent Oil (\$)	51.14	-0.46	15.87	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04
Gold (\$)	290.65	-1.60	-83.95	US	164.50	3.10	159.55
Silver (\$)	4.84	0.05	6.05	Base Rates	6.25	7.25	

OTHER INDICATORS

Country	Close	Wk's ch	Yr ago	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next fixg
Australia (\$)	2.5857			Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.22		
Austria (schillings)	18.80			Netherlands (guilder)	3.0143		
Belgium (francs)	55.26			New Zealand (\$)	3.0527		
Canada (\$)	2.5054			Norway (krone)	12.35		
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7914			Portugal (escudos)	273.12		
Denmark (krone)	10.25			Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0851		
Finland (markka)	1.4343			Singapore (\$)	2.6282		
France (francs)	8.9853			Spain (pesetas)	227.53		
Germany (marks)	2.6890			South Africa (rand)	9.5162		
Greece (drachma)	442.83			Sweden (krona)	13.17		
Hong Kong (\$)	12.56			Switzerland (francs)	2.1748		
Ireland (pounds)	1.0762			Thailand (bahts)	54.81		
India (rupees)	63.81			Turkey (lira)	490671		
Israel (shekels)	5.4630			USA (\$)	1.6306		
Italy (lira)	2663						
Japan (yen)	191.59						
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0828						
Malta (lira)	0.6075						

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SOURCE BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Country	Close	Wk's ch	Yr ago	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next fixg
Australia (\$)	2.5857			Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.22		
Austria (schillings)	18.80			Netherlands (guilder)	3.0143		
Belgium (francs)	55.26			New Zealand (\$)	3.0527		
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Japan (yen)	191.59						
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0828						
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Source: Thomas Cook

Shell to spell out wide-ranging cuts

<p

Prompt action needed from Bank

MERVYN KING, the deputy governor of the Bank of England may have trouble living up to his own expectations. In a recent speech at the *Employment Policy Institute*, after arguing that successful central bankers should aim to be both boring and invisible, he concluded: "If over the past 40 minutes I have been sufficiently boring, then I promise to carry on in that vein. If not, then I promise to mend my ways."

Since he is one of a rare breed of central bankers who find it difficult to frame a boring thought, he seems destined to disappoint himself.

Nor can the Bank of England be accused of courting boredom in recent months. Having still been biased in favour of tightening monetary policy as recently as June, it has now cut base rates by 1.25 per cent in three rapid steps since October. Nevertheless, this is a minimal response, since recent statistics have not painted a pretty picture for the economy.

Gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 0.4 per cent in the third quarter, but much of this growth seems likely to have come in the form of undesired stockbuilding. The Confederation of British Industry's survey suggests companies are building unwanted inventories of finished goods at a faster pace than occurred at any time during the deep recession of 1990/91, and there is a definite risk the employment situation will deteriorate sharply as companies shed



GAVYN DAVIES

With business conditions dropping at a dangerous rate, the MPC should quickly move base rates to at least neutral

these stocks during the winter. This could weaken consumer sentiment still further, making it increasingly difficult for companies to reduce inventories without drastic reductions in production.

It is by no means out of the question that GDP will show an absolute decline in the current quarter, and the Bank may have to work very hard to prevent the situation from worsening in 1999. Business confidence in the UK has been plummeting all year, with the first signs of a really serious deterioration occurring as long ago as April. Initially, this was largely ignored by forecasters, many of whom have tradi-

tionally been wary of taking business opinion surveys too seriously. But, as David Walton of Goldman Sachs has been arguing all year, a large and persistent decline in business confidence – especially if it is evidenced in many different sectors – is usually a good leading indicator of subsequent changes in the official economic data.

As the graph shows, the present readings on business confidence taken from the CBI survey are as bad as anything we have seen in previous recessions, even in the deep slumps of 1974/75, 1980/81, and 1990/91. It is a sober fact that if previous links between business confidence and GDP are maintained in 1999, then the economy faces a very bleak immediate outlook. But it would be scaremongering to suggest that these links must inevitably be maintained next year, since there are several key differences between the present situation and the onset of previous recessions.

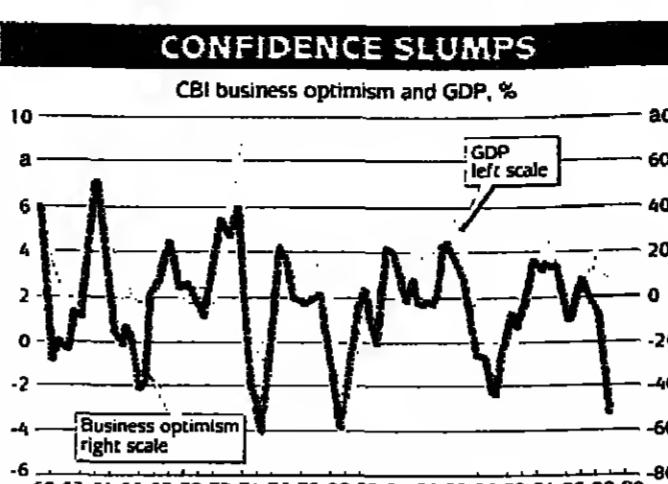
First, as the Chancellor has argued, the public accounts are in better shape than has commonly been the case in the past, and this offers considerable scope for an easing in fiscal policy to cushion the decline in output during the downturn.

Certainly, there is no reason why the "automatic stabilisers" in the fiscal system should not be allowed to work in full next year. This may increase public borrowing by 1.5 per cent of GDP in 1999/2000, but so

what? Because public expenditure has been so well controlled for the past five years, the planned increases in health and education spending over the rest of this Parliament can be comfortably afforded, and will offer a useful offset to recessionary forces in 1999. Incidentally, we seem to have heard rather little of late from those who wanted the Chancellor to raise personal taxes significantly as recently as last spring.

Second, there are few signs of the kind of severe financial imbalances in the system which have exacerbated recessions in the past. The private sector – companies and households taken together – are admittedly running a small financial deficit, but it is only a fraction of the 6 per cent of GDP deficit that triggered the recession in the late 1980s. The balance of payments is essentially in equilibrium, and there are few signs of excess in the housing market. Consequently, the problem areas which have forced savage adjustments on the economy in previous downturns are largely absent this time.

Third, and most important, there is no real possibility that inflation will prove to be a thorny issue for policymakers during the early phase of the current downswing. This is a crucial difference between the present situation and the onset of virtually all previous recessions since the Second World War. In fact, most



previous recessions have not only been accompanied by inflationary problems, but have actually been caused because policy has had to be tightened to eliminate severe inflationary tendencies.

With these inflationary tendencies generally persisting for a couple of years, policy has typically remained very tight for several quarters into the downswing. As a result, there has usually been no countervailing force to offset a decline in business confidence, and there has been nothing to stop worsening confidence from being translated into negative GDP. In fact, an inspection of all the periods of sharply declining business confidence since 1960 indicates that

rates by 0.5 per cent in its December meeting. Actually, the inflation report has not been a very good guide to policy during 1998, which suggests that its role may need to be reconsidered.

The key point, though, is that the MPC has not yet succeeded in reducing base rates far enough to put monetary policy into "neutral". Average or mid-cycle real base rates are probably around 3 per cent, so with an inflation target of 2.5 per cent, a neutral level for nominal base rates would be about 5.5 per cent. At a current level of 6.25 per cent, rates are therefore still significantly above a neutral level.

With business conditions dropping at a thoroughly dangerous rate, and the threat of inflation conspicuous only by its absence, there are strong grounds for arguing that the MPC should quickly move base rates at least to neutral, and possibly much further than this.

The "Taylor Rule", which sets an optimal level of base rates according to the degree of inflation and spare capacity in the economy, suggests that rates should drop to below 5 per cent by the end of next year.

"Prompt Corrective Action" is a term that central banks have invented to describe the optimal way to respond to crises in the banking system. This time, the Bank needs to apply the same principle to the whole economy.

IN BRIEF

EMU is good for stock markets

INVESTORS regard monetary union as overwhelmingly good news for Europe's stock markets, according to a survey by investment bank Merrill Lynch and Gallup. Surveying 224 fund managers in continental Europe and around the world, former high-yielding countries, which have seen the biggest interest rate cuts, such as Italy, Spain and Ireland, stand to gain the most from EMU while Germany is seen as standing to lose the most. Most fund managers expect the UK to join EMU in 2002, although UK-based investors set a slightly later date of 2003.

Asean summit

ASIAN FINANCE and foreign ministers yesterday said they had agreed "bold measures" to tackle the economic crisis ahead of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) summit on Tuesday. Thailand's foreign minister said the proposals included special incentives for new investment, including allowing 100 per cent foreign ownership and tax concessions, and an attempt to create closer financial links to China. Further details of the measures will be announced at the summit.

Call price to drop

THE COST of calls to mobile phones is set to fall following the recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report due to be revealed by the telephone watchdog Ofcom tomorrow. According to weekend reports, BT will be told to cut the cost of calls to mobile phones by up to 40 per cent, while mobile phone companies Vodafone and Cellnet, owned by BT and Securicor, will be told to cut the amount they charge BT to deliver the calls.

B&Q merger vote

SHAREHOLDERS WILL vote this week on the planned merger between Kingfisher's DIY arm B&Q and Castorama of France. The two companies said the French Stock Exchange had issued the documentation connected with the merger and Kingfisher's egm would be held in London on Thursday, with Castorama due to hold its meeting of shareholders in Lille on Friday.

Canadian banks

CANADA'S FINANCE minister is expected to block two mergers involving four of the country's largest banks today after Canada's competition bureau warned that they would lead to unacceptable concentration in credit-card services. Retail and investment banking, Royal Bank of Canada, the country's largest, agreed to buy Bank of Montreal in a C\$19.23bn deal last January, while CIBC and TD Bank said they would merge three months later.

News Analysis: There is no evidence yet of the across-the-board decline that has hit manufacturing

Service sector has its bright spots

BY LEA PATTERSON

THE OUTLOOK for the UK economy seems to get darker by the day. Last week, the Bank of England cut interest rates for the third time in as many months. This week, a raft of official data releases – inflation, unemployment, retail sales – will prompt another round of economic pessimism.

Amid the gloom, and there is plenty of it, it is easy to forget that companies in the UK service sector are still flourishing. For many, 1998 has been as good a year as 1997. If the economy is to escape recession next year, these companies must keep on growing. What are the chances?

Until recently, the UK service sector looked unassassable. According to the latest official estimates, business services – that is, professional services such as management consultancy – grew by an annual rate of around 7 per cent in the first six months of the year.

The UK telecoms industry grew by more than 10 per cent. Services prices have continued to increase, reflecting buoyant demand as well as a shortage of skilled labour. The latest inflation data put services inflation at 3.4 per cent, more than three-times the rate of goods inflation.

Lately though, the outlook has started to look a little less rosy. Retailers were the first to feel the pinch of slowing domestic demand. Recent official data, as well as the more timely surveys of retail sales, have been dire.

The country's leading retailers, including the stalwart Marks & Spencer, began warning of a "bloodbath" on the high street. The autumn sales are still on, even though there are only a few weeks until Christmas.

The new price index published last week by the British Retail Consortium showed that prices on the high street last



Demand for big-ticket items such as foreign holidays is holding up, but restaurants, hotels and pubs are feeling the pinch

month were 1 per cent lower than at the same time last year.

Retailing aside, there are signs of weakness in other service companies that directly serve UK consumers. Last week Scottish & Newcastle became the latest in a string of brewers to express caution about the near-term outlook.

"There is still reason to be concerned about consumer

confidence," said Sir Alistair Grant, the group's chairman.

Times are getting tougher for hotels and caterers too, where official figures indicate that growth is, at best, stagnating.

But not all the so-called "consumer service" companies are suffering, suggesting that there may still be life in the UK consumer yet. Demand for certain "big ticket" items, foreign hol-

iday sales for example, is still holding up. "We're not seeing any evidence of a significant downturn in consumer demand," said Bill Nightingale, head of investor relations at the holiday company Airtours. "If anything, we're slightly ahead of where we thought we'd be."

Forward-looking surveys, though, suggest Airtours' experience is the exception not the rule. A recent Confederation of British Industry/Deloitte & Touche survey found that confidence had fallen sharply among "consumer service" companies such as restaurants and bars.

"Consumer services firms expect the volume of business to be lower and to see a sharp cut in the value of future business," said Martin Scicuna, chairman of Deloitte & Touche. Financial services are also showing signs of faltering. Investment banks have been laying off staff since the summer's financial crisis. However, the weaknesses seem, to date at

least, less pronounced than for "consumer service" companies.

Most major retail banks insist loan quality is holding up, and consumer lending continues to grow sharply. The latest CBI survey found that although there had been sharp falls in confidence among financial services companies, most were still reporting healthy business volumes.

There is still one bright spot in the services sector – professional and business services such as accountancy, management consultancy and IT. Many of these companies are enjoying record levels of profit. This is in part because issues such as the launch of the euro, the year 2000 and the breakneck pace of change in many industries keeps them busy despite weakening domestic demand.

And it is partly because the bulk of work for accountants and consultants and the like comes from other companies, not individual consumers. It takes time for slowing consumer de-

mand to feed through into lower demand for professional services.

Andrew Given, group finance director of Logica, the IT con-

sultancy, said: "We are not seeing any evidence of a slowdown in the market sectors in which we tend to operate – finance, telecommunications and utilities. Our business is growing and we expect it to continue to

grow. We are still recruiting strongly, for example."

Simon Gayford, chief executive of London Economics, a privately owned consultancy, paints a similar picture. "We're trading strongly and our pipeline is looking strong," he said. "We're keeping a constant eye on things but there's no sign of any deterioration."

The accountancy firm KPMG is also upbeat, although Alan Reid, head of finance, has noticed a slowing in business in northern England. "We've seen some indications of weakness in our northern business area, that is, from Leeds to Manchester. There are also some indications in the Midlands. But we've seen no sign of a downturn in London," he said.

So although growth in services is undoubtedly slowing, there is as yet no evidence of the across-the-board decline that has hit the manufacturers. A combination of structural factors and cuts in UK interest rates should stop the economic slowdown spreading to all parts of the sector, although it seems inevitable that retailers and other companies directly exposed to UK consumers are in for a shaky start to 1999.

With a bit of luck, the economic slowdown that most forecasters have pencilled in for next year should not turn into anything nastier.

NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES

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Tarmac and Aggregate on track for £1.8bn merger

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

TARMAC AND AGGREGATE Industries are in the advanced stages of negotiations that could lead to a £1.8bn merger of the two building materials groups.

However, Tarmac yesterday denied suggestions that a deal could be announced this week and said it was in talks with a number of the industry's key players.

A link-up between Tarmac and Aggregate would create a quarrying company big enough to rival established leaders such as Hanson, RMC and other international groups. Aggregate, based in Leicestershire, confirmed it was in talks with its Wolverhampton-based rival in October.

It is thought that the demerged construction businesses will be run by Tarmac chief executive Neville Simms. Aggregate's chief executive Peter Tom will take the same role at the enlarged group.

The City believes the com-

bined group might run into problems with the regulatory authorities because it would dominate the quarrying industry in the Midlands and the market for coated stones such as asphalt.

In recent weeks, Irish rival CRH and Amec are both thought to have put in bids for Tarmac, which has seen its share price dragged down by its construction business.

Shares in both companies soared in October when it was first reported they were in talks. Aggregate has jumped from 56.5p to 70.25p while Tarmac has improved from 80p to 110p.

The merger is expected to save costs by cutting corporate overheads and merging the two distribution networks. NCB petitioned the government yesterday but the last minute appeal failed.

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Rogue trades have had their final day

TODAY FOR the first time, any late rogue trades on the Stock Exchange's computerised order book will not distort the closing Footsie index.

More than a year after Chancellor Gordon Brown switched on what was to be a highly controversial method of share trading, the Stock Exchange has introduced a system that should iron out the impact of maverick deals.

An impressive regulatory system has been established to counter rogue trades. But they have a habit of occurring towards the stock market close with a consequent disruptive impact on the final and most important Footsie calculation.

Any distortion is usually of relatively minor significance although the 100 Footsie constituents are all traded on the order book. On the only publicly declared occasion when Footsie was recalculated, observers were surprised by the gap that emerged.

The revision occurred on New Year's Eve, a vital day in the investment calendar as it is the cut off date for many portfolio valuations.

Then, a closing 1.5 points gain was adjusted to a 3.2 plus and 11 Footsie constituents had their closing prices revised. Perhaps not an alarming change but big enough to have had a considerable impact in the rarefied world of investment performance.

On a share-by-share basis the new system should end fits and starts of the type when two trades one Friday in July created consternation at Smiths Industries, the aerospace to medical group. The deals, at 711p, were accepted as the closing price; they compared with the more than 750p ruling for much of the day.

On another occasion three Footsie constituents were the subjects of late trades utterly out of line with reality.

There is a suspicion that some trades are deliberately inputted incorrectly to try to

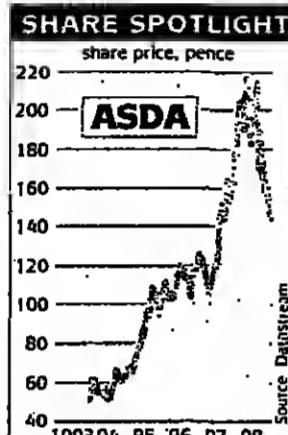
STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

establish a favourable position. Other draft deals have been put down to spaghetti-fingered traders. On one occasion one trader actually confused two shares, punching a Cable & Wireless price onto the Imperial Chemical Industries screen. The deal was subsequently cancelled.

However, it is claimed that most of the seemingly draft



deals are the fag ends of multi-million pound portfolio trades: the final, often small deal in a string of trades when the price is of little significance to the whole exercise. Derivative-related basket trades, arbitrage and hedging are regarded as the sort of activities responsible for most maverick trades.

Until today the last order book trade represented the

basis of a Footsie calculation. Now the new closing price will be an average based on order book deals in the last 10 minutes of trading. The so-called Volume-Weighted Average Price will be the result of dividing the value of trades by the volume. If there are no late transactions the last order book trade will be used as the closing price. Under the new system the Smith Industries closing price would have been 752.75p not 711p.

Off order book trades involving market makers, which are still a large slice of daily business, will continue to be excluded from providing any influence on the blue chip index.

Footsie, in its final week labouring under the old system, had a poor time despite a half-a-percentage point base rate cut and yet another mega deal. It retreated 40.2 points to 5,541.7 and will need a Christmas rally of titanic proportions to achieve some of the heady year-end forecasts which once floated around.

In the Christmas run up there will not be a compelling spread of company results to offer much cheer.

This week the only Footsie constituents in sight are Asda, the supermarket chain, and Securicor, the security and mobile phone group.

Judging from the way Asda shares have performed, its interim results will sadly lack any suggestion of festive glow. There is little doubt with consumer spending under pressure Asda, like other retailers, is feeling the pinch and its management, which so successfully rescued the business in the early 1990s, faces its most difficult year.

The shares, down to 23p when Tory blaggard Archie Norman launched the revival, hit 218p in April. Last week they closed at 143.5p.

Profits of around £200m, up from £190m, seem likely but the stock market will be more interested in any clues it is able to get about current trading.

ing, particularly the Christmas experience.

Two other hard pressed retailers are on the results schedule. Carpetright and MFI will have particularly woeful tales to tell.

Both have felt the spending slow down. Carpetright is likely to suffer a half-time fall from £16.1m to £12m and MFI, which has suffered the indignity of being expelled from the mid-cap index, could even slip into the red.

Forecasts range from a £6m profit to a £10m loss. Last year the furniture group produced a £25.4m profit.

Securicor's year's profit could emerge at around £100m against £80m. The group's minority shareholding in the Cellnet mobile phone group continues to intrigue with many observers convinced the day is nearing when the controlling shareholder BT buys out the Securicor involvement.

Others reporting include Vaux, the Sunderland group planning to unload its two breweries and 350 bottom-of-the-barrel pubs to concentrate on its hotels and top of the range pubs. Its year's profits should emerge at £42m against £38.3m.

NFC, the transport group which stems from the famous National Freight Corporation management and worker buy-out, has found the going tough lately but should achieve an 8 per cent year's gain to £125m. First Choice Holidays, the packaged holidays group, should manage £48m against £41.5m.

Leeds, a textile group, also features this week. It has the somewhat dubious distinction of sporting a 17.5 per cent historic yield, despite the promise of a maintained dividend. Although profits are expected to be lower, say around £8.7m, there is even thought to be a good chance the dividend will be increased from last year's 7p a share total. The shares closed at 51p Friday.



Core Design is seeking an injunction against a firm planning to use the Tomb Raider trademark

Computer boys battle for the rights to Lara Croft

WHO'S SUING WHOM

FRANCESCO GUERRERA

LARA CROFT, the pixilated beauty of the Tomb Raider computer game, is at the centre of a tug of love between two computer companies. A subsidiary of the software group Eidos is suing Doncaster-based Fire International in connection with a device that allows players to cheat at the game.

The software is the latest in a new breed of best-selling, and perfectly legal, cartridges that give computer users a better chance to win at their favourite Sony Playstation games.

Fire International publishes a number of these gadgets under names such as "Cheatmaster" and "Explorer", and was allegedly planning one for Tomb Raider III, the new Lara Croft adventure. However, Core Design, a wholly-owned Eidos subsidiary, is seeking an injunction to stop Fire International from using the Tomb Raider mark in its cheat software.

The computer group wants the High Court to stop Fire from "passing off" or attempting to pass off any computer games software and/or hardware" as Core's games through the use of the Tomb Raider name or mark.

In a writ lodged last week, Core claims that the use would be an infringement of its trademark and demands unspecified damages. It also wants the little software group to destroy or deliver up all the computer software which would breach the trademark.

THE CELEBRITY chef Marco Pierre White is embroiled in a legal row with the builders of the Titanic over the name of his latest restaurant.

The Belfast-based shipbuilder Harland and Wolff want to stop the enfant terrible of British cuisine from using the

order the cook and Granada to destroy "all articles, documents or other materials" and to wipe out "all marks or designs" which could breach the trademark.

The builders of the ship, which sank on its maiden voyage in 1912, also want unspecified damages and have demanded an inquiry into how much money Marco Pierre White has made while using the name.

Harland's writ is the second wave in the legal storm engulfing the Titanic restaurant. Earlier this month, Marco Pierre White's rival Oliver Peyton took exception to the location of the restaurant just above his own super-trendy Atlantic Bar and Grill. The top restaurateur complained that customers get confused by the embarrassment of culinary riches, and issued a writ against the landlords who, coincidentally, are Granada and Post House Hotels.

It claims that by naming the posh eatery after the ship, Mr White is infringing the patent. Harland is asking the judges to register the trademark.

THE TITANIC plot thickens with news that Rupert Murdoch's Twentieth Century Fox is claiming that Harland's trademark is invalid.

The maker of the Leonardo Di Caprio/Kate Winslet blockbuster maintains that the mark was not registered properly and wants it revoked.

The US film house alleges that the registration was in breach of the Trade Marks Act 1994. In a High Court application, it says that the mark was "devoid of distinctive character", was of "such a nature as to deceive the public" and was registered in "bad faith".

Twentieth Century Fox adds that the registration broke the law because the mark was "identical to an earlier trade mark which had a reputation in the United Kingdom" and was used for a different class of goods. The company also alleges that, due to the use made by Harland, the trademark is "liable to mislead the public".

Twentieth Century Fox is asking the High Court to rule that the trademark was "invalidly registered" or to scrap it altogether. It also wants its costs paid by the Belfast shipbuilder.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL giant Pfizer is taking a hard line over its anti-impotence blockbuster Viagra.

The US company is seeking an injunction to stop a Dean Sithwicks, trading as Viagra-Plus of Wolverhampton, supplying any substance under the Viagra name. They also want to prevent him from using the name Viagra in any form.

The American giant also wants to cause a few blouses among Wolverhampton residents. In a High Court writ, it demands that Mr Sithwicks "disclose the name and addresses of all persons, firms or companies from whom he has at any time obtained or received or to whom he has supplied" his Viagra-Plus.

Bills paid later as economy slows

By SIMON DUKE

COMPANIES are taking longer to pay bills as the economy slows down, with large companies the worst offenders, according to a survey of 212,000 businesses published today.

A survey conducted by Experian, the database and credit rating group, reveals that the average payment period has slipped by 0.9 days since six months ago, despite recent legislation designed to speed up invoice payments. But while small- and medium-

sized firms still take an average of 55 days to pay up, large companies take 72 days to settle their bills, two days more than six months ago.

According to Peter Brookner at Experian, large companies only give their own customers an average of 37 days credit, while taking twice that time to settle their own accounts.

"This means they are in effect using their suppliers to fund a month's free credit.

Large increases were also observed in the pharmaceutical

sector, where payment took an average of 59 days, five more than earlier in the year, while large food retailers now take 73 days to settle accounts, an increase of four days.

Banks are the worst offenders among large companies, taking 82 days to pay their invoices, 16 days more than in May, while water companies form the worst individual industry.

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PAK

Third Test: All-too-familiar collapse points to a gulf in mental fortitude, rather than talent, between the two teams

England lacking strength of mind

CONDITIONS HAVE become depressingly normal again in Adelaide, and after the heat came the cold discomfort of an England batting collapse. Statistics can sometimes be misleading, but the loss of seven wickets in 64 minutes before lunch is one so damning that no amount of spin, particularly if it comes from a leggie, is going to be able to disguise it.

As at Perth the extra batsman has yet to prove his worth and this time it was an extravagant turn mainly from the wrist spinner Stuart MacGill, who took 4 for 53, that did the damage. Indeed, only Nasser Hussain, left unbeaten on 89, Mark Ramprakash, who scored a fluent 61, and Michael Atherton, who made 41 on Saturday, got into double figures.

The rest were a sorry agglomeration of noughts and crosses (an indication of appalling shot selection) and further proof that county cricket is not much of a breeding ground when it comes to robust characters.

The tendency of England's batting to collapse is not new. The performances of the last five batsmen have been particularly dire and during the first Test in Brisbane, the final four wickets fell for 15 runs.

Perth was worse still with just 31 runs in the first innings and 2 in the second. Here they mustered 17 in their first innings, a collapse that once again left a batsman, in this case Hussain, stranded without support.

Reasons, if you accept that these particular players are not entirely hapless, are more difficult to pin down. When it comes the practice and physical preparation, Graham Gooch is the kind of man who leaves no stone unturned. England's bowlers have diligently practised their batting on this tour.

Mind you, on evidence from the middle the only thing that has been proved is the converse of the usual adage: that practice makes perfect. The same can also be applied to their catching, which has been equally poor.

Perhaps that is the problem. Over-practice highlights the importance of the activity to the

BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Adelaide

Australia 391 & 150-1
England 227

extent that failure becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. As far as catching goes, relaxed hands and alert minds are the key, something the quick-fire multiple catch sessions now in vogue do not encourage.

What is really lacking however – a flaw clearly illustrated by the manner in which England's batting collapses have happened – is mental fibre, an observation Gooch himself made as England captain after his team had lost to Australia at Old Trafford in 1993.

Once again, the system is at fault. County cricket, with its surfeit of matches – something that two divisions does nothing to redress – is tough, but only on the body.

As a consequence and because of the sheer volume of cricket played, the mind looks to take short cuts and players faced with an unpromising situation rarely waste either the time or energy trying to dig themselves out of it. They know another game, and with it another opportunity to do well, will be along soon.

In sport bad habits tend to be exploited and the higher you climb the more you are exposed. England's lower order, and most of its middle too, have been busy proving that with embarrassing regularity. Contrast this with the way Justin Langer and Michael Slater, the latter eschewing his normally dashing strokeplay, ground England out of the match. Australia are single-minded, England are absent-minded.

The most frustrating aspect, particularly after England had one or two dubious decisions the day before, was that Hussain and Ramprakash had the go in Cairns damaged his middle ear as well as his confidence.

At 195 for 5, the stage was set for Graeme Hick to prove to his doubters that he is a Test player of substance. But if he began confidently, twice swatting MacGill to the midwicket fence for four, a beautifully pitched leg-break that took the edge ruined the illusion. Once again, when runs would have really counted, Hick failed to deliver.

After that England's tail, their mugshts already flashed up on the giant screen along with their appalling record, came and went quietly, leaving Hussain to contemplate the futility of his own staunch efforts.

Mr Paul Angley, who is doing the job in Adelaide, has only stood in three first-class matches and his inexperience showed when this decision was referred to him. He was much too quick on the draw, making his mind up after seeing only two replays of the incident.

"We played the extra batsmen here, so it is up to the top seven to score the runs. You can't blame the tail; we've got to take the responsibility. Ramps and I had a good hour and then we had a bad hour. If we had the answer as to why that was, it wouldn't be happening."

Speaking after the close of play, Hussain did not blame the tail, a public gesture that was probably far more charitable than his private thoughts at the time.

"We played the extra batsmen here, so it is up to the top seven to score the runs. You can't blame the tail; we've got to take the responsibility. Ramps and I had a good hour and then we had a bad hour. If we had the answer as to why that was, it wouldn't be happening."

There were at least six available and the more one watched them, the more certain one became that it was impossible to decide whether or not it was a clean catch. An older hand would have waited to see what else the cameras had to offer

and would probably have had another look at the slow-motion replays.

Mr Angley may have felt himself pressured to make a decision as quickly as he could. But to have done it so fast on such slender evidence must have involved guesswork which has been a feature of a few decisions made in the middle in this match.

Of course, the Australians

are crying "Whingeing Poms!"

The Aussies know what it feels like though, for at Old Trafford in 1997 Greg Blewett was given out caught at slip by Nasser Hussain and the replays then showed that the ball had bounced first.

On those far off days, the laws

did not allow third umpires to

adjudicate on catches. Had

they been able to, Blewett

would have been given the benefit of the doubt, just as Atherton should have on Saturday, although Taylor's "catch" was less clear-cut on the replays than Hussain's.

There is a view that this incident was a reflection of Australian shoddiness and that Taylor was not blameless. I do not hold with this for Australia's captain is not a cheat. He claimed the catch initially and said later to Ian Chappell that he thought he had got his fingers under the ball. There are occasions when fielders genuinely do not know and it was

now left to the cameras, whose evidence was inconclusive.

This argument continues

that it was this incident which was responsible for England's pathetic batting on the third morning. This, of course, is bunkum as a look at England's batting in this calendar year alone will show, when collapse

failed to come.

The tail was, as always,

ghosted and was summed up by

Alan Mullally. Just before the

first Test, he and Robert Croft

had put on 36 for the last wicket

to enable England to beat

Queensland, and afterwards

Mullally had spoken about the

importance of tall-enders play-

ing their part with the bat. How

he must wish he had kept his mouth shut.

He came in now to face his

fourth successive duck in this

series and never for a single moment suggested that he would

not achieve it. Dean Headley

and Peter Such both found that

their first balls were altogether

far too straight for their well-

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one would have laughed.



Glenn McGrath celebrates as England's Mark Ramprakash walks off after being dismissed by the Australian paceman on Saturday. Allsport

Umpire's inexperience exposed



HENRY
BLOFELD
IN ADELAIDE

PROBLEMS ARE coming thick and fast for the International Cricket Council at Lord's. Although not perhaps quite on the same level on the Richter Scale of these things as the *obiter dicta* of the Indian bookmaking fraternity, Mark Taylor's "catch" of Mike Atherton on Saturday has shown that third umpires need to have reached a certain level of experience.

Mr Paul Angley, who is doing the job in Adelaide, has only stood in three first-class matches and his inexperience showed when this decision was referred to him. He was much too quick on the draw, making his mind up after seeing only two replays of the incident.

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Between them they had

amassed 13 runs and had been

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Ronaldo comes to rescue of Lucescu

AN 89TH-minute winner yesterday by Ronaldo – only his fourth league goal of the season – gave the Romanian Mircea Lucescu his first Serie A victory since he took over from Luigi Simoni as coach of Internazionale at the start of the month. The 1-0 win at Udinese put Inter back in the title hunt.

The Brazilian moved on to a pass from Roberto Baggio following a scramble in the Udinese penalty area and stroked a left-foot shot past goalkeeper Luigi Turci from close range.

Lucescu made two tactical substitutions in the game, throwing on the Nigerian Taribo West for Fabio Galante and adding Baggio to his front line. West had been dropped after he threw his shirt at Lucescu in disgust last weekend when he was substituted in the first half of Inter's unconvincing 1-1 draw with Salernitana. Yesterday Inter managed to put their differences behind them as they recorded their sixth league victory of the season.

George Weah also hit a late winner to give 10-man Milan a 1-0 win over Vicenza, the Liberian sliding in a cross from Diver Bierhoff after 80 minutes after having had midfielder Massimo Ambrosini sent off for diving in the penalty area – his second bookable offence.

Roma and Parma were tied on 23 points following their 1-1 draw in a game pitting the tightest defence in the Italian top flight against its most prolific attack. Parma had conceded just five goals before Sunday while Roma had scored 26. The Argentinian Hernan Crespo gave Parma a first-half lead after Roma keeper Antonio Chimenti had parried a shot from Enrico Chiesa in the 39th minute.

Roma's arch rivals Lazio hammered Sampdoria 5-2 at the Olympic stadium thanks in part to a hat-trick of free-kicks from Yugoslav defender Srdjan Mihajlovic. Milajlovic's compatriot Dejan Stankovic grabbed Lazio's fourth and Marcelo Salas added a fifth in injury time to take the Italian Cup holders into sixth place.

A last-gasp goal by Egyptian

OVERSEAS ROUND-UP

BY GIDEON LONG

defender Hani Ramzy gave Kaiserslautern a 2-1 victory over relegation-threatened Eintracht Frankfurt and lifted them into third place in the Bundesliga. Michael Ballack had put the German champions ahead after four minutes, but Damir Stojak equalised for Frankfurt in the 74th minute.

Elsewhere, Hansa Rostock broke their nine-game winless streak by defeating a depleted VfL Bochum 3-0, thanks to a pair of goals by Swiss-born Oliver Neuville in the 21st and 36th minutes.

Denilson's appalling run of luck continued when the Brazilian missed a penalty 12 minutes into Real Betis's match against visiting Atletico Madrid on Saturday as their Spanish League encounter ended in a 0-0 draw.

Denilson has yet to score this season and was starting for Betis for the first time in three weeks after last month being relegated to the substitutes' bench by his coach, Javier Clemente. The goalless draw meant that Clemente's flawless home record came to an end.

Positions at the top of the French championship remained the same as Girondins Bordeaux and Olympique Marseille, separated only by goal difference, both won by 3-0 scores. The France striker Lilian Laslandes scored twice, taking his league tally to eight, as pacemakers Bordeaux strolled to victory over Le Havre.

Marseille beat Metz, down to 10 men from the 42nd minute when the striker Bruno Rodriguez was sent off for dissent, having already been booked for a similar offence.

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The Dutch champions, Ajax, have removed their coach, Morten Olsen, and replaced him with the second-team coach, Jan Wouters. The Danish coach had come under increasing pressure following the club's dismal performance in the Champions' League and poor results in the domestic league.

The victorious Grimsby

THE PORTSMOUTH manager, Alan Ball, broke up a pitch demonstration of around 500 fans after the First Division side's defeat by Grimsby at Fratton Park yesterday.

Speaking from a microphone in the directors' box, Ball persuaded the fans to go home after Pompey's 1-0 defeat. Supporters also staged a sit-down protest at half-time against the Pompey chairman, Martin Gregory, after the first-team squad was put up for sale to meet huge debts.

Ball told the fans: "Everyone knows how you feel and we sympathise. Your support has been fantastic and we realise just what this club means to you. But rest assured no one is going to get us out of trouble on and off the pitch."

The 7-1 mauling left the Oxford manager, Malcolm Shotton, devastated. "Every time Birmingham went forward they looked like scoring," he said.

Sunderland increased their lead at the top of the table to seven points following the 2-0 defeat of Port Vale at the Stadium of Light, but their man-

NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP

manager, Alan Buckley, who saw Paul Groves head the only goal of the game, sympathised with the home side. "Of course I feel sorry for Alan and I know what I would do in his situation, but it is not for me to tell a great manager and a great player what he should do," he said.

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ager, Peter Reid, was more satisfied with the performance of Alex Rae. The Scottish midfielder returned to the side after personal problems which included a spell at the Marchwood Priory clinic in Hampshire, where Paul Gascoigne was recently admitted.

"Alex's response was top class," Reid said. "I thought his passing was exceptional and he knocked a lot of balls around the pitch that got us going forward, as well as winning the ball back for us."

The Stockport manager, Gary Megson, is tipping Watford to catch up with second-placed Ipswich at the top after his side lost 4-2 to the Hornets.

"They are the best team we have played," Megson said. "Personally, from what I've seen, I would put them on a par with Sunderland."

Bradford came from behind to inflict a 4-1 defeat on Swindon at the County Ground. But Lee Mills, who scored twice, was sent off for a second bookable offence after kicking the ball away.

"He knows it is very silly but having been booked already the referee had no option but to send him off," the Bradford manager, Paul Jewell, said.

The Wolves defender Kevin Muscat was fortunate to stay on the field after a horrific tackle on Norwich's Craig Bellamy in the last minute against Bolton at Preston Park.

Ade Akinbiyi took just a minute to equalise for Bristol City after a Mickey Bell own goal appeared to have set Crystal Palace on their way to a first win in five games.

A James Quinn brace, along with Lee Hughes' 24th of the season, saw Huddersfield lose 3-0 at home to West Bromwich.

I must admit," the Wolves manager, Colin Lee, said.

The Queen's Park Rangers manager, Gerry Francis, was furious after his side failed to capitalise on a glorious chance to move up the table by losing 1-0 home to bottom-placed Crewe.

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It was an odd sort of game in that most of the excitement came in the goalless half. In a first period which featured all five bookings, Ipswich came closest when Tony Mowbray headed fellow defender Mark Venus's free-kick against a post while Barnsley might have scored when Matt Holland cleared off the line.

Ipswich's day started to sour after a second-half injury-time strike from Janie Scowcroft. His

ward for a brave attempt to reach a hooked clearance was a broken collar-bone following a fierce collision with goalkeeper Tony Bullock. The impact of his replacement Richard Naylor was minimal in comparison to that of Barnsley's Turner, who came on for the ineffective Deon Burton. His impact was swift and introduced some much-needed energy to the game as, within five minutes, he skipped over a challenge from Manuel Theis and pulled back a ball from the by-line which Sean McClare tucked away. An exceptional 25 minutes' work was rounded off with a close-range shot from a similar pull-back from Darren Barnard almost on the whistle.

The Ipswich manager, George Burley, was realistic about his team's prospects regarding injuries to the likes of Scowcroft and Jason Cundy, and the impact of the sale of Alex Mathie to Dundee United and Mauricio Taricco to Spurs.

"We're depleted. It's going to be a difficult month and we're going to have to dig deep but certainly I would have been pleased at the start of the season if you'd given us second place at the moment."

Goals: McClare (69) 0-1, Turner (90) 0-2. Ipswich: Scowcroft (55-2), Wright, McGeary (70), Vassell, Cundy (80), Mathie (88). Dundee United: Scowcroft (60), Mathie (88). Barnsley: Barnard, McGeary (70), Turner (85), B. Dyer, McClare (88). Referee: M. Dean (East). Attendance: 16,621.



Fans vent their opposition to the Portsmouth chairman, Mike Gregory, during their side's 1-0 home defeat to Grimsby yesterday

Turner is the prize for Barnsley

BY PETER CONCHIE

Ipswich Town 0
Barnsley 2

WERE A graph to be plotted of the comparative fortunes of Ipswich Town and Barnsley since this time last season it would describe two divergent paths. However, as Saturday's result indicated, those respective upward and downward curves may yet converge. Barnsley's stock is rising, but is Ipswich's about to plummet?

Recent history would suggest not. At the half-way stage last year Ipswich also lost at home, to Birmingham City. They went on to lose only once in their remaining 23 games. Barnsley, meanwhile, are doing their bit to undermine the foundations of the First Division with three wins and a draw against its top four teams in the last three weeks.

The story of the afternoon was the dramatic debut of Barnsley substitute Michael Turner who, until two weeks ago, played for Bilton Town in the Midlands Division of the Doctor Marten's League. On Saturday he effectively won the match, setting up the first goal and scoring the second. Young Turner appears to be a promising player with pace, strength and a directness of approach. More unusually he also has a degree from Liverpool University. Before his fast-track promotion to the first team Barnsley's manager, John Hendrie, revealed that he had received a letter from his new recruit asking to be excused from Monday night's Pontin's League reserve team game against Sheffield Wednesday. This was to enable him to attend his graduation ceremony.

Hendrie spoke level-headedly of his newest recruit. "He has played in the reserves for us and did well and I was tempted to get him involved last week at Watford," Hendrie noted.

"He's a strong boy, he's quick and he's a bright lad but we're not getting carried away. He's only played 30 minutes of League football."

It was an odd sort of game in that most of the excitement came in the goalless half. In a first period which featured all five bookings, Ipswich came closest when Tony Mowbray headed fellow defender Mark Venus's free-kick against a post while Barnsley might have scored when Matt Holland cleared off the line.

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Helmer's fee halts Houllier

BY ALAN NIXON

LIVERPOOL'S ATTEMPTS to sign the German centre-back Thomas Helmer have stalled after Bayern Munich demanded a transfer fee for the 33-year-old defender. The Anfield manager, Gerard Houllier, had hoped to acquire Helmer on a free transfer after talking to his agents in Manchester last week. However, Bayern now say that they want compensation, possibly as much as £1m and Liverpool will not pay for a player of his age.

Helmer has confirmed that he is in negotiations with the Merseysiders and awaits a conclusion to the talks, but the answer will be no unless the fee drops. Liverpool, meanwhile, are bringing in the Cameroonian defender, Rigobert Song, on trial this week. They have been granted a visa for him. Song, out of favour at Salernitana, cannot play in public games because he needs a work permit but could join in training and practice matches behind closed doors.

Harry Redknapp has strongly rejected suggestions that Rio Ferdinand is on his way out of West Ham in a multi-million pound deal. The England international had been linked with a move to Manchester United or Liverpool, but the Hammers manager insists he is trying to build a team – not dis-

mantle it. "Why should we sell our best players?" Redknapp said. "We are a Premier League club and we get tremendous support. Are we just a selling club? I don't think so. The chairman and the board don't want to sell. I'm sure of that. And I certainly don't want to sell my best players."

The Borussia Dortmund goalkeeper Stefan Klos has indicated he will not be moving

to Rangers. The Bundesliga club say Klos would be allowed to leave during the winter break if they could find a replacement. The club have not found a replacement for me and it looks as though I might have to see out my contract at Dortmund."

Klos was expected at Ibrox early this week after saying the Scottish Premier League leaders were his first choice. However, he now appears to have had a change of heart and looks likely to see out the remaining months of his contract.

Now Merson is facing an anxious wait of just over a week to determine whether or not the injection will he needed to his back complaint. Merson, who first encountered the problem while on England duty in October, said: "I shall go back to see the specialist in about a week's time and he will tell me more than two months."

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SCOTTISH ROUND-UP

BY DAVID MCKINNEY

the unique duopoly that is the Scottish league. Celtic versus Rangers, Rangers versus Celtic, whichever way you call it, the Glasgow clubs are misplaced giants in a land of pygmies. While their home games attract more than 50,000 supporters, the other clubs have to survive on gates of around 10,000.

The rest can challenge, and indeed they raise their game whenever they play the old firm, but more than 100 years of history have shown that Rangers and Celtic will win the huge majority of the games they play and a 10-point gap between the two can be a yawning chasm.

The Celtic supporters, meanwhile, are yet to be convinced that things can improve and while they have been hampered by injury, they do not have any real spark about their play, with the exception of Henrik Larsson, the Swede who has shown fine form this season and scored the equaliser on Saturday.

Motherwell continued to be inspired by the form of John Spencer, who has set Fire Park alight since his arrival from Everton. He scored Motherwell's goal and his overall performance made it clear to see why the Scottish club are keen to extend his stay.

DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION NOT GOING DOWN WELL

IT was not a top class performance against Dundee United but frankly I cannot criticise the players. They at least had the character to come from behind to earn a point," Venglos said.

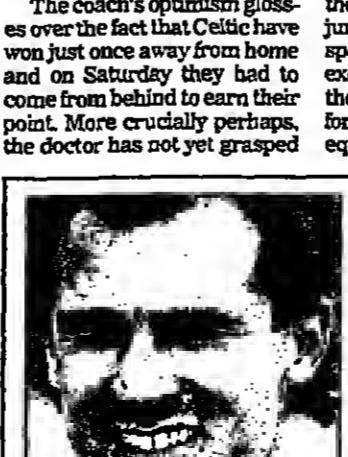
Celtic might have made their point but Rangers were collecting three with a 1-0 victory over Kilmarnock at Ibrox to put them three points ahead of the Ayrshire club. This was a Rangers side below its best form, but, importantly, they maintained a victory.

Aberdeen, who are thought to have targeted Jim Jefferies, the Hearts manager, as a replacement for Alex Miller, defeated the Edinburgh side 2-0 to take them off the bottom of the division. That dubious honour has fallen to Dunfermline, who managed a 1-1 draw with Motherwell with 10 men.

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FROM THE TURMOIL OF TURIN TO THE PASSION OF PRIDE PARK... IAN STAFFORD TALKS TO THE DERBY COUNTY DEFENDER TONY DORIGO



Triple switch proves Smith's point

A WILY OLD fox in Rams' clothing endorsed Chelsea's championship credentials ahead of the first half of their December double-header with Manchester United, although events at Pride Park also revived doubts about the viability of Gianluca Vialli's squad-selection system.

Derby's Jim Smith, who first donned the player-manager's mantle at Boston United some three decades before Vialli, did not allow his side's late equaliser to tarnish a positive impression of the resilience the Italian has instilled during 10 months in charge at Stamford Bridge.

Smith's view is that the title tends to go not to the most tal-

ented or exciting team, but to the one who makes themselves hardest to beat. Chelsea's run of 18 unbeaten Premiership games since the first-day flop at Coventry - contrasting neatly with 15 League defeats last season - has convinced him that their soft underbelly is now a tight six-pack.

"They are very serious contenders," said Smith. "I think it will go to the wire between Chelsea, United, Arsenal and Aston Villa. Arsenal have that ability to dig in and get results,

and Villa have added players since they beat us."

The difference with Chelsea is that they are so good going forward, a bit like United. We felt that we could cause them problems if we got enough balls into their box, but it's not that easy because you can't get the ball off them."

Derby, however, managed to fulfil their manager's brief in stoppage time. The first triple substitution of his career paid off when one replacement, Kevin Harper, crossed for another, Dean Sturridge, to equalise and negate Chelsea's second-half ascendancy.

The switches made by Smith were born of necessity, if not

desperation. Villa, like Ruud Gullit before him, routinely ticks with his line-up simply to keep players fresh, and indeed made six changes to the side who had overcome Villa three days earlier. Hindsight may show it to be a case of cutting off your nose to spite your face.

Tore Andre Flo, for instance, is by no means certain to start at Old Trafford on Wednesday. Villa's track record suggests he may pair himself with Gianfranco Zola and bring the Norwegian off the bench. After Flo's classic demonstration of centre-forward play against Derby, including a goal which combined deftness and bravery, such a decision would be music

to the ears of Jaap Stam and company.

Two players who will almost certainly return are Marcel Desailly and Albert Ferrer, in place of Michael Duberry and Bernard Lambourde, respectively. Ensuring that your first-choice centre-backs are in the right condition to face Middlesbrough's York and Cole is all very well, but it could be argued that their absence needlessly exposed Chelsea at the critical moment.

For all the importance of squad depth to cover for injuries and suspensions, history shows that the champions field their strongest XI whenever possible. Villa, to quote an admittedly freakish precedent, used only 14

players in 1990-91. Liverpool regularly took the premier prize under Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley with a team in which nine or 10 men were fixtures.

Chelsea have already used 21 players, one more than in the entire 42-match programme in 1994-95, their only championship campaign. Having said that, Jody Morris made a strong case for retention ahead of Roberto Di Matteo with a first-starting appearance full of industry and invention. His exquisite pass set up Flo's riposte to Horacio Carbonari's opener, and Gustavo Poyet's drive promptly put the visitors with in reach of the summit.

Cleland lifts Everton blues

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Everton 1-0 Southampton 0

THESE ARE not exactly exciting times at Everton, but just possibly they are times for a certain grim satisfaction.

There was a moment towards the end of this generally turgid affair when the complete lack of atmosphere at Goodison gave way to the quiet knowledge that, whatever their many failings, the Blues were drawing level on points with the team across Stanley Park and that, just for the present, they are not the Merseyside club in the more obvious crisis.

It might say more about the general standard of the Premiership than it does about Everton that they have now taken 10 points from the last 12 on offer, but those are the bald figures.

No one, least of all Everton's largely inaudible manager Walter Smith, is yet whispering - let alone shouting - anything from the rooftops. Nor should they. Everton won this match by virtue of two missed open goals by the Premiership's most toothless attack coupled with an uncharacteristically clinical piece of finishing from Ibrahim Bakayoko - scoring his first Premiership goal in his ninth League game.

Bakayoko showed a new confidence once he had scored, but a contribution of potentially equal significance came from Alex Cleland.

Smith's recruit from his old squad at Rangers has had a limited impact at Everton and has been largely confined to duties as a substitute for much of the last two months. But against Southampton he was one of their notable successes in the right-wing-back role and his constructive forays were responsible for much of the opportunity Bakayoko found to run at the defence.

He hit the bar with an effort of his own, and his neat and tidy work in what in truth was a technically woeful match, was enough to make ensure that he stood out.

It could not be argued seriously that other departments of the side are in as good order: Smith left out Marco Materazzi for reasons about which he was enigmatic, but which revolve around a training ground argument, and gave Slaven Bilic his first appearance of the season in the back three.

But that defence presented open invitations to score to Hassan Kachlou and Mark Hughes before either side had found even a faltering rhythm.

The Moroccan midfielder had an unhappy afternoon. Apart from squandering his sitter, it was his mistake that let in Bakayoko, and he was also booked for an extravagant dive in the penalty area.

According to his manager, David Jones, he cannot put a foot wrong in training, or in the reserves. It is upon these consolations that doomed campaigns are built.

Blackburn striker Nathan Blake is beaten by an airborne challenge from Newcastle's Dietmar Hamann at Ewood Park on Saturday

Empics

Role of No1 fits Kidd just fine

AS NEWS reached Ewood Park of goals rolling in and the Reds seeing red at White Hart Lane, the thought occurred to many in the press box that we were in the wrong place. Far below us a man with more reason to be in the capital with Manchester United than any had no doubts.

Brian Kidd's formative managerial influence may be Alex Ferguson but he looked more like Barry Fry in Saturday's goalless draw as he prodded his coaching box exhorting and directing his players on everything from positional discipline to body shape. At times he was almost on the pitch and had Rovers managed a goal we may even have seen a Fry-style jig of delight. For a man previously thought to be happy in Ferguson's shadow he gave every impression of relishing centre stage.

He appeared equally at home in the press conference afterwards as he joked, of his still-youthful looks, "as soon as the hair goes I'll chuck it in".

But it did not take long before he confessed "the one place I enjoy is on the training pitch, the rest, talking to you lot and everything else, is an occupational hazard". Which is why he is in no rush to replace Derek Fazackerley, sacked as coach last week, with Brian McClair or anyone else. "That's my strength, that's what they have employed me for," he said.

Kidd's coaching at Old Trafford was widely praised and, while Roy Hodgson came to Blackburn with a similar reputation, Kidd, after his eight years at Old Trafford, is likely to be more comfortable in the milieu of an English dressing-room.

One experienced journalist suggested last week that Kidd could be found wanting when it came to "show us your medals" time but since, at the time of writing, he is the only member of the Blackburn Rovers staff to possess a European Cup winners' medal - and has more England caps than all but Tim Flowers - this should not be a problem.

Glenn Moore

To judge from the players' effort it has not taken long for him to lift their spirits. That Tim Sherwood, one of the most affected players under Hodgson, was their best performer was particularly promising. "Tim is a lot happier and there's more camaraderie in the squad," said Rovers' full-back Jeff Kenna. "The new manager really knows his stuff and everyone is keen to impress."

There is certainly no shortage of expectation. Jack Walker, the club's benefactor, said he expects Kidd to make the club "better than top six" material and the supporters showed similar belief with 5,000 more rolling up than last week to produce the biggest gate of the season.

This was still only half the average gate at Old Trafford but the job, in its own way, is as big. Rovers' plight is partly due to the injuries that continue to keep Flowers, Chris Sutton and Kevin Gallacher on the sidelines, but the championship side, a team full of good players, has been allowed to break up and not been adequately replaced. This is partly due to poor decision-making but also down to Blackburn's geographical isolation, and, in the modern megabucks Premiership, the diminishing clout of Jack Walker's wallet.

There is still the nucleus of a decent side and some good youngsters but it was no surprise to hear that Kidd had spent most of the week on the defensive - though a neat free-



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SPORT

RICH NEW PITCH FOR LINDSAY P20 • RICH NEW LIFE FOR JENKINS P18

Villa revival rocks Arsenal

BY PHIL SHAW

Aston Villa 3
Arsenal 2

OUTCLASSED BY Arsenal and trailing to two consummate finishes by Dennis Bergkamp, Aston Villa roared back into a three-point lead in the Premiership yesterday after an extraordinary fight-back culminating in Dion Dublin's winner with seven minutes remaining.

In a contest which had virtually everything - including, sadly, serious injuries to an RAF parachutist in a Father Christmas outfit who hit the stand roof during the interval "entertainment" - Villa appeared to be facing a third defeat in five matches when Bergkamp doubled his tally for the season in the space of 31 first-half minutes.

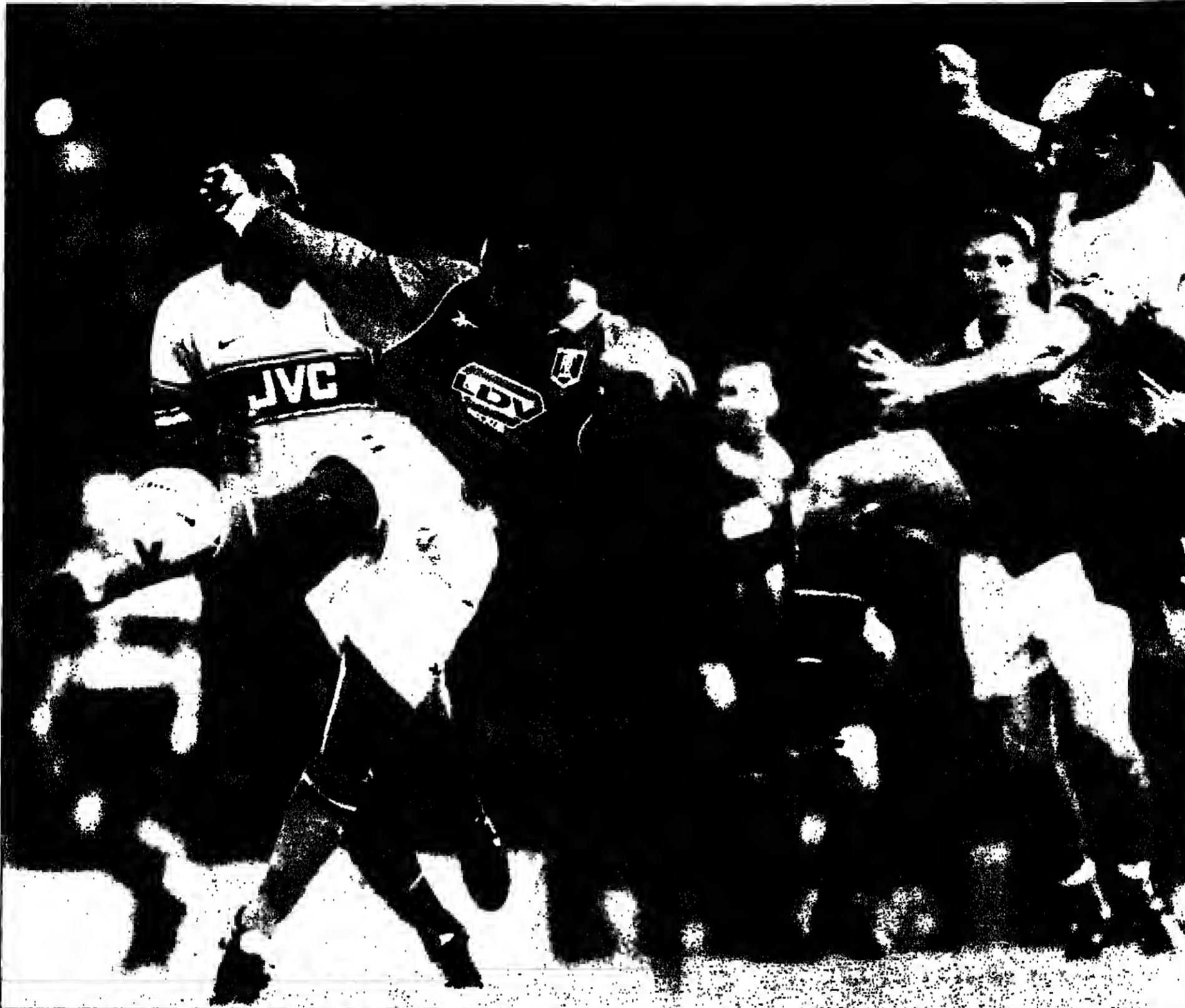
John Gregory's reaction to adversity was typically bold. Early in the second half the Villa manager sent on a third attacker, Stan Collymore, and went to four at the back. Within 10 minutes the champions had been pegged back to parity by Julian Joachim and Dublin. The coup de grace, administered by the former Coventry striker as Arsenal surprisingly buckled under pressure, was no more than the home side deserved.

Arsenal, whose run of five league matches without a win is their worst sequence for three years, were understandably rattled by the end. They had arrived boasting the division's best defensive record, having kept nine clean sheets and let in only seven goals in 16 games. They had not conceded more than one in any Premiership fixture, so Villa's three in 20 minutes must have been hard to stomach.

A further measure of Villa's achievement can be gauged from the fact that - with the exception of a 4-0 loss at Liverpool in May when the newly crowned champions were on cruise-control - Arsenal's goal had not been breached three times in exactly a year after the last occasion, Blackburn's 3-1 success at Highbury; they embarked on a decisive 18-match unbeaten charge through it may be asking too much for history to repeat itself.

As for Villa, they are actually better off at the end of their series of three games in nine days against what Gregory calls "the big bitters" (Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal) than they were at the start. Nevertheless, Gregory's post-match comments indicated that no-one would be resting on their laurels.

"Our second-half performance left me speechless," he said, "but I was also speechless



Aston Villa striker Julian Joachim fires past the vain challenge of the Arsenal central defender Steve Bould during his side's 3-2 home victory yesterday

Barnsley unmoved by Rovers' Ward bid

BY ALAN NIXON

BRIAN KIDD has made a £4m bid to make Ashley Ward his first signing for Blackburn Rovers. The new manager at Ewood Park has contacted Barnsley with an offer for their highly rated striker. Kidd wants to bring Ward into the survival battle where his goals almost kept the Yorkshire club in the top flight against the odds last season.

Ward is keen to go to the Premier League again and will be interested in Blackburn. Leeds and Leicester were already in the hunt before Kidd took the Rovers' job.

Jack Walker has promised Kidd money to save the club this season and their entry to the chase makes them favourites to sign the wanted man, Ward. However, the Barnsley manager, John Hendrie, is fighting to keep hold of his star player.

He said: "I want to keep Ashley as long as I can. We have rejected Blackburn's approach. In my mind, there is no point in selling him. There is no way he will be leaving while we have a chance of the play-offs."

However, Blackburn are likely to make a renewed and increased bid this week and with Ward saying that he is keen to leave, Hendrie has a tough battle on his hands.

Kidd's move suggests that he is not happy with the strike force that he has inherited. There are now question marks over their futures, with new boy Nathan Blake under the most pressure. But record buy, Kevin Davies, and even Chris Sutton could be looking over their shoulders if Ward arrives in the next few days.

Ward is currently finishing four-game suspension for his second red card of the season, but those disciplinary problems do not worry Kidd. The Blackburn manager likes Ward's attitude and the way he leads the line, qualities that shone through in the top flight with Barnsley.

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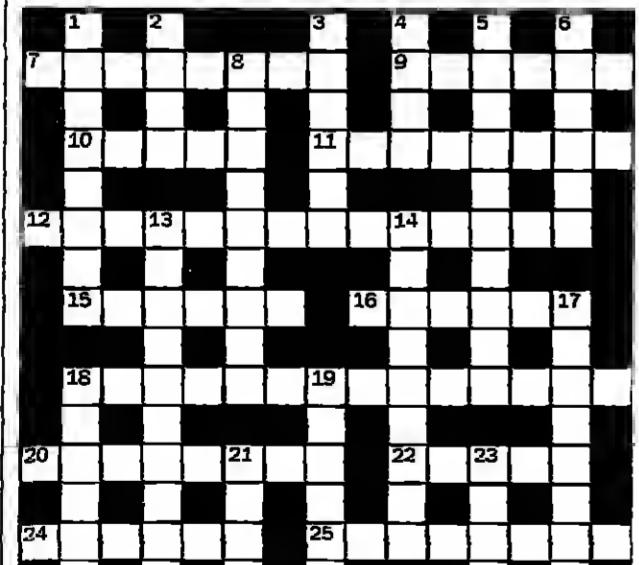
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THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No 3793 Monday 14 December

By Esau



tion, revealing body shape (8)

1 Becomes less excited, making all-timed riposte in court? (4,4)
2 What adds colour in Iris's menu? Veal, party? (4)
3 Becoming tired of long-haul flights (3-3)
4 Roll up with expensive coat left behind (4)
5 I groped about, having a look inside for rodent? (7,3)
6 Figure on extended outside broadcast (6)
8 Trail round shopping precinct having social chat (3-4)
13 Once designed to be carried, that can be sold abroad (10)
14 Four books rubbishing grotty ale? (8)
17 Wild herb you finally found, roaming endlessly around (8)
18 Greedy chap coming in drunk - one stuck into barrel (6)
19 Tolerate some slight peccadillo, on reflection (6)
21 A great deal involving lawyers' profit, after walk-out? (6,1,7)
20 Huge nervous reaction after article following one-night stand? (8)
22 Works in a concert hall (5)
24 Dog track (6)
25 Shy, squirming in irritation (8)

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Hollooake was betting target

ENGLAND HAVE admitted that Adam Hollioake was a target for illegal bookmakers attempting to pull off a betting coup at the Champions' Cup in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, a year ago.

Hollooake, who led England to victory in the two-week tournament, claims he was contacted twice by illegal bookmakers wanting information about weather, pitch conditions, team line-ups and tactics during the two-week tournament.

The Surrey all-rounder refused to co-operate and reported the approaches to David Graveney, the chairman of selectors. Graveney said: "Adam got a fax in our Sharjah hotel regarding the team but he did the right thing and reported it. In the current climate you can't be too careful."

Hollooake said: "The first time I was contacted I assumed the guy was a reporter. He rang me in my hotel room and started asking me questions about the pitch, the team and what we would do if we won the toss. I became suspicious and asked him what newspaper he worked for. He replied, 'No, no, I am not a reporter. I am making a book.' I told him where to get off. The next night

CRICKET BY MARK PIERSON

another man contacted me. He referred me to the previous contact with his colleague and started asking all sorts of questions about tactics and so forth. When I said I was not going to help him he became aggressive."

"Then, he told me if I co-operated he would make me a millionaire. I told him he was wasting his time."

"I am convinced that none of my team was involved in any wrongdoing but suspicions have been raised about what went on during the tournament and they have taken the gloss off our success. I would hate to think we did not win the trophy fair and square."

The revelations come at the end of a week in which Australia's Shane Warne and Mark Waugh admitted they were fined in 1993 for taking money from an Indian bookmaker for giving similar information.

Meanwhile, England's problems continue in Adelaide after another batting collapse on the third day.

England on the rack, West Indies' struggles, page 23

150 in 150

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Roger Scruton. Philosopher, musician, author, scourge of the left. So where does he keep his copy of 'Hollywood Wives'?

I AM, I must say, much looking forward to meeting Roger Scruton, Britain's most famous philosopher and, by all accounts, a most serious thinker. Obviously, it is going to be a great meeting of minds. I am, yes, quite a serious thinker myself, and often have thoughts along the lines of "I drink therefore I am. Until I fall over in which case, I become a terrible nuisance for people to step over to get their coats." He says, later, that he is fond enough of drink, especially good wine, "but I never do fall over I am just not the type."

I don't think Roger Scruton is entirely without a sense of humour. It's just that it's such a dry, precise-out thing, you have to work ferociously hard for even the smallest droplet. It's totally austere, and may or may not be worth it. It's one of those things you're just never too sure about.

Roger - who is also barrister, novelist, opera composer, journalist, former professor of aesthetics at Birkbeck, church organist, regular on Radio 4's *The Moral Maze*, and author of more than 20 academic books - lives, these days, in Wiltshire, in a rather lovely 250-year-old farmhouse surrounded by 35 acres of land. Here he keeps an orchard, ducks, and his five, magnificent bunting horses. He took up fox-hunting in a big way 10 years ago, and is absolutely passionate about it and what it has brought him. He even met his wife of two years, Sophie Jeffreys, on a hunt. Sophie is a pretty blonde in her early twenties (he's 54) who, two weeks ago, gave birth to their son, Sam. He is enjoying marriage very much, yes. "To live with someone who likes you, and whose judgement you respect, because you love them, does make quite a difference, I find."

Pre-hunting and Sophie, Roger was possibly quite a lonely old stick. He is fiercely right-wing. He doesn't believe in human equality. He is pro-hanging. He is pro-House of Lords. ("What is wrong with hereditary privilege anyway? We all inherit some things. I inherited my brain from my mother and father...") He is anti-gay. He is perplexed by feminism. "Although I can see there is no going back to the old division of labour... It was noble, actually." Such views never made him especially popular in liberal, academic circles. "I have been tremendously attacked and sneered at over the years... So, yes, it's nice to have Sophie by his side. Sophie, by the way, is half-sister to the Conservative peer Peter Jeffreys, and a descendant of Judge Jeffreys, who was very keen on capital punishment. I mention this not in a gossipy way, but because she is just the sort you would expect Roger to marry. He may be a serious thinker but he is also, I think, seriously stuck on toffs. And this, perhaps, explains as much as anything.

When I arrive, he's out in the paddock in his green wellingtons, tending his horses. He has quite red hair, and a gingery, boyish face. He looks rather like a spare, rural version of Jim Davidson, without any of his silly facial expressions. Although, that said, he doesn't have any replacement expressions of his own. It's as if the muscles of his face just do not work. It's quite spooky. Does anything make him laugh. I wonder? "I would like to say politicians do, but I find them too depressing. Fashion makes me laugh. And the insanity of it." I say I've never got into fashion myself. He says, "I can see that!" with what may be a droplet of irony, but then again may not. It is quite hard to tell.

We go into the house, into his study. A copy of *The Cambridge History of English Literature: 11 To the Cycles of Romance* lies half-open by his chair. His bookshelves are beaving with heavy-going titles like *Symbolic Architecture*, and a volume of Plotinus. And Jackie Collins's *Hollywood Wives* (only teasing). There are lots of dark paintings depicting bunting scenes. It seems, overall, a heavy, melancholic place.

Certainly, Roger is woefully unfriendly. He doesn't have a telly ("So boring"). He disdains pop music ("What passes for life in this music is not life at all, but a repetitive discharge, a monotonous spasm like the jerk of a frog's leg wired to the mains"). He abhors shopping. If he must have new clothes, then "Sophie takes me a place and just bundles me though the door." How do you ever escape from your own thoughts, Roger, if you do? "Hunting is very good for that. And cooking. I do most of the cooking although Sophie is good at kedgeke. I'm planning to write a philosophical cookbook, which will take in the nature of food and our relationship to it. On the whole, I rather disapprove of cookbooks, except for the literary ones like Elizabeth David's. You are not a *Delia* fan, then? *Delia* Smith is, actually, my *bête noire*. I consider her a most pernicious influence. She gives the impression cooking is all about measuring, whereas it isn't. It's about smell, texture, improvisation... She's very popular though. Roger. How do you account for that? "Well, obviously, people are becoming increasingly moronic." I don't think Roger Scruton has ever queued all night to see *Cats*.

Anyway, why am I here? Today, I mean, rather than in the metaphysical sense, which would take us into a terrible hall of mirrors and keep us going for ever. I have come, ostensibly to discuss his latest two publications - *On Hunting* (Yellow Jersey Press, £10) and *The Intelligent Person's Guide to Modern Culture* (Duckworth, £14.95). The first, I must say, is mostly a joy. Although utterly provoking at times (for example, he rues the day Thatcher

quit Downing Street, and considers ours a society of "wimpies and scroungers"), and rather embarrassingly rhapsodic on occasion (the skin on a horse's neck is "like a silken tunic on the thigh of Juno") it is, on the whole, a beautifully written little memoir about why he became a fox-hunting man. The other is harder going, with a preface that lays down strict criteria for readers: "You don't have to be familiar with the entire canon of Western literature and the full range of artistic masterpieces," he writes, "but I shall assume some familiarity with Baudelaire, TS Eliot, Mozart, Wagner, Manet, Poussin, Tennyson, Schoenberg, George Herbert, Goethe, Marx, Nietzsche, Derrida, Richard & Judy, Bobby Davro, Postman Pat and Boyzone (only teasing, with the last four). Still, both books seem to carry the same message. That is, that the past is a noble and glorious thing, but the present is total trash.



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

In hunting, for example, a person may relearn the ancient dignity of old England before it was "scattered to dust". Contemporary art is all rubbish because our culture, once such a fine thing inspired by religious belief, no longer exists. And once religion goes, genuine art goes. From this, all else follows - the glory of Bach, the rapidity of the Spice Girls, the brilliance of Michelangelo, the fatuity of sheep in formaldehyde... But hang on, I cry. These are grossly unfair comparisons. You can't compare what has endured with stuff time hasn't had a chance to sift yet! *OK*, Damien Hirst's works may not endure, but what about Pinter? David Hockney? Harrison Birtwistle? Seamus Heaney? "Hm, I can see what you mean. Perhaps I did neglect that point rather." Sometimes, I think, he has to loop his own arguments around his snobbery, to make them fit. Do you like anything in the modern world, Roger? "Well, I suppose the ballets are rather better. There does seem to be less of that soppy *Susan Lake* stuff." I wonder: how did this lower-middle-class boy get so stuck on the aristocracy? Although, that said, I don't think you have to look that far. Roger's ex-

tremism, possibly, is a reaction to that of his father.

His father, Jack Scruton, came from the Manchester slums where his mother worked in the mills and his father, being a drunkard, proved to be both unemployed and unemployable. Jack was bright, and yearned to stay on at school, but his father made him leave at the earliest age (14) for a job collecting horse manure in the streets. He was saved by the outbreak of war, and the RAF, after which he went to teacher-training college and became both schoolmaster and passionate socialist. For Jack Scruton, the class war was the dominant face of English life, and his hatred of the upper classes was deep. He would not, even, allow his children to read Beatrix Potter or Enid Blyton (as he called her) because, he claimed, "they polluted the image of the countryside with cosy bourgeois sentiment and turned our wild Saxon inheritance into a suburban fairy tale." He permitted only the Penguin translation of the *Odyssey*. Roger felt rather deprived, yes, and still does. "I still can't pick up references to, say, the *Famous Five*." But he's trying to catch up. "I am currently reading *Peter Rabbit*. Although in Latin."

I ask him what he'll do if, in a couple of years' time, Sam demands a *Tilly Wicky*. "Well, I shall deny it to him." By doing that, won't you be simply doing as your own father did? "Yes. Of course. But I do think parents should deny things to their children. Children who always get what they want are always so obnoxious." A pause. Then: "Perhaps Sam will just become a cruel experiment in parenting."

His mother, Beryl, who had met Jack during the war, had upwardly mobile pretensions, yet made compromises for Jack's sake. Lunch was "dinner", supper was "tea". She abstained in his presence from coffee and served tea "which was strong, dark and forbidding". Yet, the moment Jack was out, she drank coffee from china cups, read romantic fiction, listened to cheap music on the radio and "entertained blue-rinsed ladies with whom she gossiped about the glamorous people they read about in wicked magazines". I think, generally, the house-hold found socialism a rather oppressive thing.

The division between Roger and his father became absolute when he passed the 11-plus and entered High Wycombe Royal Grammar School, a place that had public-school pretensions - bouse-masters, boarders, cadets, rugby, fives, a posh uniform. As Roger writes in *On Hunting*: "Jack watched with impotent rage. I did my best to please him. I skived off sport, discovered convenient pacifist convictions which enabled me to opt out of the cadets, and was generally as unhappy as he could reasonably have hoped, but he observed the

spiritual transformation that comes about when a young person is put into proximity with the aristocratic ideal."

What, I ask, is that spiritual transformation? "The knowledge that you can aspire to be something better," Roger replies. Possibly, he has always considered himself rather better than others. Perhaps all he needed now was an ideology to go with it.

He went on to Cambridge, where he got a double first in natural sciences, then found himself in France during the student revolution. This, in terms of coming out as a Tory, clinched it for him. "I found myself on the opposite side to the students. I thought, why don't they try to find what is lovable and conserve it, rather than what is hateful and destroy it?" He became violently anti-communist and, in 1979, was invited to address an underground seminar in Prague. He subsequently learnt Czech and helped set up a resistance movement, before eventually being arrested and expelled. On his return to England, he set up *The Salisbury Review*, a right-wing magazine which, most notably, published "Education and Race", an article by a Bradford schoolteacher, Ray Honeyford, which advocated that immigrants should be taught without respect for cultural difference.

Honeyford is quite a hero to him, as is Enoch Powell, who, as it happens, sold Roger his first lot of hunting-gear. "I happened to be sitting next to him at a dinner when he said he was giving it up. I was a bit poor at the time so I offered to buy his second-hand clothes. I've still got his jacket, but it never was quite big enough for me. It split down the seams." Powell's "Rivers of Blood" speech was, he insists, widely misinterpreted because "he assumed everyone would get the references to Virgil". Funny you should mention Virgil, I say. I mean, he didn't amount to much after *Thunderbirds*, did he? Roger would look perplexed, if he could, but as he can't, he just goes all stony. Only teasing. I cry hastily. He continues with: "What he was referring to was the end of the Roman Empire, the end of the *Iliad*. He was saying things come to an end if we don't retain our identity..."

Anyway, it's time to go. "Is that your taxi I hear?" asks Roger. "Yes, it definitely is." On my way out, I'm briefly introduced to Sophie, who is worried about a wedding at the weekend. She says nothing fits her. I say, if you want my post-pregnancy advice, you'll do your pelvic floor exercises if, from now on, you don't want to wet yourself every time you sneeze. And I'M NOT TEASING! "Good God!" gasps Roger. "Is that right?"

A great meeting of minds, as I predicted. And I may even have taught him a thing or two.



Y2K troubles

Sir: If it is true, as your architecture correspondent suggest ("Will the Earth move anyone?", 11 December), that many of the 14 Landmark Projects part-funded by the Millennium Commission are having to cut back on their original plans, then I suggest this is a matter of national concern.

The £500m investment of lottery funds, together with a matching sum from partners, sponsors, etc, represents a unique investment in much-needed educational and leisure facilities across the country. Many of the Landmark Projects, such as the National Space Science Centre being developed in Leicester (happily one of the more financially robust projects), will provide a vital source of information and inspiration, as well as entertainment, to young and old alike into the next century. In the case of the NSSC there is also strong interest across Europe. With Landmark Projects due to open in 2000 or 2001 crucial decisions, not only on architecture, but also in content, must be imminent, if not already taken. A widespread cut-back in their quality and vision would be tragic.

Is it not, therefore, urgent that the Millennium Commission - and relevant government ministers - take time off from their concerns about the Greenwich dome to ensure the nationwide investment in these long-term educational facilities does not become a major missed opportunity?

Professor KEN POUNDS
Department of Physics and
Astronomy
University of Leicester

Sir: I take issue with Charles Arthur's assertion that the Y2K problem is caused by programmers "whose fault all this is, if you'd forgotten" (Millennium Bug Watch, 3 December).

The decision to use two-digit dates was taken for cost reasons (memory was very expensive then). This happened over 30 years ago and the Y2K problem was recognised at least a decade ago (I knew about it during my school years in 1988).

Why then have the industry management and government taken so long to pull their heads out of the sand? The usual reason: it never occurred to them that to understand a complex subject well enough to make policy decisions takes time and effort (which of course is of no short-term managerial or electoral benefit to them).

MARK REARDON
Leeds

Lockerbie mystery

Sir: Mervyn Benford is mistaken (letter, 7 December). As a signatory of the Montreal Convention, which it has not denounced, Britain is evidently content with the Libyan system and legally obliged to accept that Libya should try the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing in Libya.

Under Article 7 of the Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation 1971, signed by Britain, Libya and the USA, a contracting state in whose territory an alleged offender is found shall, if it does not extradite him, be obliged *without exception whatsoever and whether or not the offence was committed in its territory* to submit the case to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution. That is the legal position. Morally and ethically Britain may take a different view.

As the father of a Lockerbie victim, my concern is not whether the two men, acting on their own or as agents for the Libyan state, contrived to get a bomb through all the checks in Malta, Frankfurt and Heathrow with or without assistance by others. My concerns are: why Pan Am 103 was blown up; how it was blown up given the intelligence services and aviation security systems, and how



Christmas Workers No 1: the choirboy. Fatigue creeps in as the St Paul's boys' choir runs through the final rehearsal of Handel's 'Messiah'. Tom Pilston

terrorism can be prevented by enabling people or countries with grievances, real or imagined, to get a fair hearing so that they are not driven to terrorism.

I hope that the present moves to get a trial in The Hague succeed. But the trial, whatever its outcome, would not alleviate by one little bit our pain. We need to know the whole truth and perhaps could then find some grain of comfort from that knowledge contributing to preventing acts of terrorism.

MARTIN CADMAN
Burnham Market, Norfolk

Why teach?

Sir: I was amused to hear of Tony Blair's desire for teachers to have parity of esteem with doctors. The Green Paper on teachers' pay and conditions holds out the prospect for a small proportion of classroom teachers to earn £35,000 per annum, and outstanding heads who turn around failing schools, which may have over 2,000 pupils and several hundred staff, up to £70,000.

Such remuneration compares with over £50,000, and in many cases much more, for a GP, and up to £12,000 for a hospital consultant whose weekly contracted hours amount to only 35, thus leaving much free time to earn still more enormous sums from private practice.

Ambitious, highly-achieving school students in maths and science with a vocational bent will continue to choose medicine as their career of first choice, and anyone who believes potential earnings is not the most important factor is ignorant of human nature.

STEPHEN USHERWOOD
Nottingham

Sir: I went into teaching for the holidays. I was 19 with an appetite for theatre, mountains, travel, films, books and life. I figured that the best way to do what I wanted for as much of the year as possible was to teach - 13 glorious weeks of holiday a year, 18 if I went private. I sky-hiked around America. I

cycled through France, I saw every single Shakespeare play, I wrote a clutch of short stories for radio, I trekked in Nepal and I read everything I could lay my hands on. And in term time, I returned to my classes and taught English and loved it.

Now, 20 years later, when I read about David Blunkett's payment by results, I think, "No, you've got it all wrong. You haven't asked the teachers." Really good teachers need really well paid holidays. The private sector has always known this. Holidays for the teachers are like company cars for the executives - central to the package for getting the job well done. Just mention the holidays, Mr Blunkett: that is the way to sell teaching to students - and any student with the right qualities for the classroom will jump at it.

JENNY GUBB
Cambridge

Goodbye Scotland

Sir: Andrew Thornbury (letter, 9 December) makes the assumption that if Scotland separates from the United Kingdom then my country

would cease to exist. However, I think it would then consist of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The loss of five or six million Scotch people would no doubt diminish the UK, but I'm sure we would remain part of the EU. Scotland, having left, would have to reapply.

JOHN THIRKILL
Norwich

Sir: The Scots joined England for sound economic reasons, helped by wholesale bribery of the Scottish Parliament.

The Corsicans were seized by France, as were Alsace and Lorraine. The Corsicans, like the Scots, went on to make a good thing out of running and exploiting an empire. There is now no empire and the Corsicans and Scots would now rather enjoy their own identity.

I worked in the City of London for many years; it is largely funded and run by non-UK entities; the staff are international. Without this ability to deal with capital and human resources without regard to national origin there would be no City. Does Peter Gresham

(letter, 4 December) imagine that the imperial nation state is the only basis of political organisation?

The greatest cultural reawakening we know came out of the Europe of mini-states and principalities. Big states, like big companies, may well be a sign of economic and cultural weakness: merge when times are bad, demerge when times are good.

JSH MC LAREN
Dunbar,
East Lothian

Costly questions

Sir: Having voted for Norman Baker in the last election I am worried by the reputation he has acquired for asking a record number of allegedly trivial questions in the Commons, and his odd argument that extra work does not have any cost (letter, 7 December). One wonders what of his constituents' welfare was advanced by knowing the age of the oldest bottle of wine in the Foreign Office cellars.

Mr Baker should take care. His Lewes constituency is a marginal one. If the Conservatives ever

recover from the shock of losing the seat, any reputation for triviality could be exploited by them, and the cost of his questions would be borne by him and his party.

PAUL BARRACLOUGH
Seaford,
East Sussex

Lords: let's vote

Sir: The Government has no right to tinker with the House of Lords. Major constitutional change is the prerogative of the electorate.

The need for a second chamber was amply demonstrated recently by the repeated rejection by the Lords of the closed-list system of proportional representation. The Lords were right to resist this attempt by the Prime Minister to erode democracy. Despite this, it is intolerable that the second chamber should not be wholly elected. Now the Prime Minister appears to want what is, in effect, a wholly appointed second chamber - a further erosion of democracy.

In a referendum, it is likely that the electorate would agree the immediate abolition of the House of Lords provided that a democratically elected replacement took its place. There would need to be a public debate about how, in the interests of maximising democracy, the new chamber should be elected.

Proposals which cede more power to the Prime Minister are not likely to prove acceptable. It should be possible to offer the electorate a clear choice - keep the House of Lords or elect a second chamber using the proposed method.

A referendum is the only way to dispel the suspicion that the Government is not really interested in increasing democracy. The present tinkering suggests that ministers really view the House of Lords as a place giving power and patronage to the Prime Minister and as a sinecure for their retirement.

DAVID MCKAIGUE
Thornton Hough,
Merseyside

Fixing the charts

Sir: I was interested to read your report about titled assertions of chart fixing by Lord Lloyd-Webber and Sir Tim Rice (10 December). Their statement that "for nearly half a century the British pop music charts have provided an accurate, informative and enjoyable guide to the most popular recordings of the day" is spot on, but also only in the "talking complete bollocks" department.

There never were halcyon days of honest charts, however much those who used to enjoy chart success might wish to assert it was so. The principal difference now is that chart fixing is a more expensive undertaking than it used to be. Only artists with high profiles and lots of marketing slush-money being spent on them are likely to be beneficiaries of this abysmal practice. Expect therefore to see assertions like mine being supported only by those, like me, who enjoyed success in the days when the record labels only had to give away goods in a few hundred stores to bend the charts to their marketing desires.

Of course if you want to bypass the charts and the stores completely, then buy your records on the Internet. Any suggestion however that I am merely passing on my views in order to plug my excellent, secure, online service that sells very reasonably priced quality David Knopfler CDs would of course be a terrible slur.

DAVID KNOPLER
Petersfield, Hampshire
The writer was a Founding member of Dire Straits and is the author of "The Bluffer's guide to Rock".

Crowded planet

Sir: I have the greatest sympathy for anyone faced with damage to their local environment, be it by an energy company or from any other cause. However, when I read of Wiebo Ludwig's troubles ("War in Peace County", 8 December), I wonder if his concern for the environment ever leads him to wonder how his 11 children will find their living?

Perhaps they will follow their father's way, and live a life of farming self-sufficiency and religion, each in turn having 11 or so children, who, in turn, will have another 11 or so? That would need another 125 or so farms the size of his to support them. How many acres are there in Tricole Creek? More likely, many, if not most, of them will join ordinary Canadian society. They will need heat and power, will buy cars, and take jet planes to holidays in the sun to get away from the cold Canadian winters. For this they will use gas and oil, and lots of it. Do you think there is any chance of Wiebo making a connection here?

CHRISTOPHER PADLEY
Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

Art and nature

Sir: Before Ray Hutchins expressed his emotions all over the steps of the Tate Galley ("Dirty protest marks Tate's Turner winner", 11 December), he should, being an artist, have reflected that until the development of the chemical dye-stuffs industry in the middle of the last century, painters, including presumably those he admires most, were constrained to use only naturally occurring substances.

Thus squashed beetles, and the secretions of various molluscs, bound together by the products of the hen or the bee, were among the raw materials of many a priceless work of art. Even the brush, which perhaps Mr Hutchins from time to time brings to a delicate point between his lips, may contain the perianal hairs of a medium-sized rodent.

To object to Chris Ofili's use of elephant dung is to confuse matter and form. Rather we should wonder what the world has lost because this highly proteinaceous and plastic material was not available to Michelangelo.

Dr DAVID ZUCK
London N12

Do your eyes deceive you? As if you needed to ask...

I DIDN'T see the Carlton TV programme about drug money. The *Connection*, which *The Guardian* claimed was full of trickery and falsity. Come to that, I didn't see *The Guardian* claims that the programme was rigged, either, but I did see a copy of *Broadcast*, the weekly magazine about TV and radio, which reported the whole affair in some alarm. Assuming the piece in *Broadcast* was not a leg-pull, it seems that the Carlton award-winning documentary was pulling the wool over our eyes and the drug-money-laundering activities were sort of invented for the report.

That was had enough.

What *The Guardian* and *Broadcast* didn't report was something worse, that a recent edition of *Newsnight* was also rigged. There was a sequence in which

Jeremy Paxman was asking questions of a well known politician, and the politician was giving his well known answers. As the politician talked, the camera cut to Paxman for his reactions, and he was seen nodding slightly, as if he was interested either in what the man was saying, or in the next question he was going to put to him.

I can now reveal that Paxman was not, while seen nodding, in fact listening to the politician at all.

Indeed, the politician was not.

The politician had had to leave

in a hurry after the interview, and so the reaction shots had to be done while Paxman was all alone. I can also reveal that Paxman had to ask some of the questions again long after the politician had given the answers and disappeared, and was

therefore pretending to talk to a man who was not there.

The BBC is well aware that this kind of deception takes place on a regular basis, and refuses to do anything about it.

I can further reveal that Jeremy Paxman is not the only television performer guilty of this sort of deception. Everyone else does it as well. Almost everyone you see on TV nodding or smiling or frowning in agreement and disagreement is doing it for the camera, long after the moment which provoked the reaction has passed.

Almost everything that happens on television doesn't really happen. It has to be rehearsed, rearranged, repeated, reassembled or dismantled so that it works. Contexts on game shows say the spontaneous things they have planned

beforehand. Canned laughter is fed in, just in case the audience doesn't laugh loud enough. Even Miles Kington

Jeremy Paxman was pretending to talk to a man who was no longer there

when a documentary is telling the truth, it has to fix things to make them seem as true as they are.

I can reveal that the cinema is no less guilty than television. When the hero falls from the train, or jumps on to the passing horse, it is very often not the star whom we are watching, but a stunt man.

Indeed, there was a film some years back in which David Bowie and Marlene Dietrich both featured. The film had several scenes in which Dietrich and Bowie were alone together, deep in talk. Bowie was later asked what he had made of the ageing, legendary Dietrich, and he revealed that he had never met her. Their scenes together were not shot in two-shot; the camera always cut from the face of one to the face of the other, and each person had played his or her

part at a different time and in a different country.

Of course, theatre-goers would claim that at least the stage is for real. What you see is what you get. Everything happens as it happens. But this is not true either. Nightly, Macbeth dies at the end of the Scottish play. I can now reveal that he does not die at all, but only pretends to die - indeed, even more disgracefully, he comes back again the following night and the night after that, to die all over again.

Yet as soon as the curtain falls, the supposedly dead Macbeth jumps up and is as alive as ever. I can also reveal that books are no more to be trusted. A travel writer once told me that half the romance novels he had to read books were not remembered, but made up to resemble the sort of

conversations he did have on the road. Trouble was, he now couldn't remember which half were made up and which were real.

So whom are we to trust? Which documentary can we assume is really telling the truth about things?

If everything is rigged, can we believe anything?

Should I now reveal that this article is, in fact, totally fabricated from start to finish?

Of course not. But I can at least suggest a solution to the Carlton drug documentary dilemma.

The next time that they have a well shot, well made and well acted documentary which turns out to be based on a complete fiction, don't change the programme. Simply change the category and relabel it as a drama.

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How to hobble the President of the United States

BILL CLINTON will cut a biblical figure in Gaza this week: a hairless Samson, a distracted Solomon, a once-powerful mediator unable to persuade either warring side to stick to the path of righteousness and peace. This is a lame-duck President, and the semi-collapse of the Middle East peace process is one good reason why a reprehensible but essentially trivial affair with an intern matters to the world.

It was widely assumed, after the failure of the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, to convince the American people that their President had done anything seriously wrong that Mr Clinton was over the worst. But public opinion is only one of the checks and balances in the United States constitution, and is not the most important of them.

So the impeachment process kept rolling along, in defiance of public opinion and even of common sense, following a series of logical switches that has taken it ever further away from dodgy land deals in Arkansas and yet has closed in on the President as if he were in a paranoid dream.

On Thursday, Mr Clinton's nightmare will either end, or will descend another big step into the pit of nameless dangers. If the House of Representatives votes against all four draft articles of impeachment, there is still time for the Kid to make one last Comeback, and to redeem his presidency in its last two years. Middle East peace, the global environment and the threat of recession at home are all challenges on which a reinvigorated President could make his mark.

If, on the other hand, the House votes to send even one article of impeachment to the Senate, then Mr Clinton will be remembered in history as a failure. Fundamentally, such a vote would change nothing. For all its resonance in American politics, the word "impeach" simply means "indict" or "charge", and, if the President is impeached, that means a majority of Representatives believe he has a case to answer. It is the Senate, the upper house of Congress, that has to convict him, and by a two-thirds majority which Mr Clinton's opponents know they cannot muster.

So there is no question of Mr Clinton's being forced from office. But impeachment would be a historic humiliation; it has happened only once before. More importantly, it would mean that the diversion of the energies of White House staff and of the President himself would continue. There would have to be hearings, and Mr Clinton and Monica Lewinsky would both be called to give evidence.

This week, Mr Clinton will be on the telephone back to Washington almost all the time he is in Israel and the embryo Palestinian state. If the House votes for impeachment on Thursday, it will vote for the United States to continue to be hobbled in the all-important work of building a better world.



Remember the real animal welfare issues

WHEN IT comes to their relations with other animals, human beings seem strangely incapable of deploying the reason that is their main distinguishing feature. Barry Horne, the hunger striker for animal rights, is right to draw attention to the unnecessary cruelty involved in some animal testing. He is wrong to assert, as he does by implication by claiming that he is prepared to die for the cause, that this is the animal rights issue above all others. As some of our correspondents have pointed out, there are two much larger groups of animals that are often treated badly by humans: those we use for food, and those we use as pets. Then there is the even larger issue, which is the threat posed by the sheer scale of the reproductive "success" of our species to the survival of thousands of other diverse

species. In its impact on the evolution of species on this planet, the catastrophe of human expansion does not yet match the event - probably a giant meteorite - which wiped out the dinosaurs. But give it time.

We report today on two aspects of this. First, the short-haired bumblebee, a species native to Britain, has been declared extinct - no trace has been found since the early Eighties. The World Wide Fund for Nature warns that the skylark, songthrush and water vole will follow it into oblivion in the first decade of the next century. And this is nothing as to the destruction of species in other parts of the world, including many animals in the rainforests which have never even been identified.

Second, we report on the threat to the fish stocks in the seas around our islands. This should not be an anti-European issue; most of the problem is that we have overfished our own fish. We urgently need our politicians to rise above such pettiness and to start tackling some of the real "big picture" issues, such as how to save the skylark.

Warn, yes; scare, no

IN THE old days millenarians were worried about the end of the world. Now we are worried about whether the fridges will work when the date hits a big round number. The Government is caught on the horns of a classic dilemma: it wants us to be worried, but not too worried.

Gwyneth Flower, head of the Government's own Millennium Bug task force, seems to have gone too far in the direction of the counter-productive cry: "Don't panic!" Her call for people to stockpile cans of soup, curries, tuna, packets of biscuits and long-life milk was silly. "Squirrel" Thatcher got into similar trouble when she advised pensioners to board tins as a hedge against inflation in 1975. What Ms Flower meant to say was: don't expect your local supermarket to be open on Saturday 1 January 2000, because, however well prepared retailers are, something unforeseen could go wrong somewhere along the food supply chain. Thanks for the tip.

With this government, keep your eye on the reality not the rhetoric

NO ONE could accuse the Government of rushing into welfare reform. Tomorrow the Social Security Secretary, Alistair Darling, will publish with a flourish his pensions Green Paper. The proposals have been a long time coming, and will be more modest than the former Social Security Minister Frank Field would have liked. But in their practical modesty they will provide the clearest indication yet of what the Government has decided it means by the "modernisation" of the Welfare State.

It seems like an age since Field launched his welfare reform Green Paper to an even bigger fanfare than that which will accompany Darling around the television and radio studios this week. For a government that never knowingly undersells any initiative, Field's welfare reform Green Paper was the most over-hyped event since the election. Rather cleverly, the impression was given that the welfare bullet had been bitten, and a series of radical measures were soon to be implemented. The degree to which this was very much a preliminary opening in the welfare debate became clear in the summer. The departure of Field in July caused only a political ripple. His exit from the DSS did not send the reforms of course, as they were on no account to be sent off from.

When Darling moved into the Department of Social Security after the Cabinet reshuffle he did not find endless controversial policies requiring urgent amendment. He found virtually no policies at all. So far the Government has been the victim of its own hype, its confused objectives and the sheer, nightmar-

ishly logistic challenge of reforming the Welfare State. As far as they go, the welfare reforms implemented have been important and valuable improvements. Three cheers for the minimum wage, welfare to work, changes to the working families' tax credit and the other items on a long list that ministers recite when they are challenged about welfare reform.

There is nothing wrong with the list. It is the disparity between its contents and the apparent ambition which is the source of the problem. For a long time, Tony Blair, the most focused of prime ministers on other big issues, and with a clear sense of long-term objectives, did not appear to know what he wanted from welfare reform.

Field's appointment after the election reflected the importance Blair attaches to political symbolism. His departure reflected Blair's wariness of the practical consequences arising from symbolic acts. In between coming and going, Field attempted to adapt his well known radical policies to what he took to be the pragmatic demands of the Treasury, which meant they were neither especially practical, nor coherent.

Meanwhile Harriet Harman became sucked into the more mundane rigours of a public spending review that was under pressure to show that the Government could live up to its pre-election pledges to transfer some welfare expenditure into education and health. Simultaneously, several other departments were exploring housing benefit reform and other employment measures uncertain of objective. It is no surprise that a year



STEVE RICHARDS

Three cheers for a sensible welfare reform, but let the Government not pretend it is more daring than it is

ago this week the Government suffered a revolt over cuts in single parent benefit. It is a miracle that there were not more cock-ups early on.

I doubt there will be any cock-ups from now on. Instead, incremental reforms rather than big bangs will be the order of the day. The stakeholder pension which Darling will unveil in fact, will hardly unveil it, as the ideas have been around for at least a year in the form of a stakeholder's pension booklet produced by the Junior Social Security Minister, John Denham. He will encourage those on low incomes to take out a second pension without compelling them to do so. There will be incentives and warnings of penalties for those who do not.

Field supported a compulsory stakeholder scheme, involving redistribution from rich to poor by forcing

the well-off to subsidise contributions of those on low incomes. Not surprisingly, the more the pensions' web was explored, the more complicated it became. A compulsory system would have produced odd consequences, proving a poor return, for example, for those earning less than £9,000 a year who would still have had to rely on state hand-outs when they retired.

Darling's stakeholder pension can be introduced without causing a great political storm, and will result in more people on low incomes becoming aware of the need for a second pension, while making it much easier for them to get one. Again, three cheers for a sensible reform, but let the Government not pretend that it is more radical and daring than it really is.

Let us have less of the distorting glitter: welfare roadshows embarked on before policies had been decided: prime-ministerial speeches made on a council estate, yet devoid of substance; welfare reform Green Papers promising yet more Green Papers. All have given the impression that something dramatic was about to happen. Instead, ministers should acknowledge that they are attempting something more incremental than the presentation has often implied.

This does not mean that Darling is doomed to become a reincarnation of Peter Lilley, who chipped away at social security spending and got a cheer at his annual party conference each year when he proposed new measures to tackle fraud. The proposals were usually accompanied by a verse, which he sang badly. The cheers got louder on each reappearance, his au-

dience conveniently ignoring that the same promises had been made the year before. The end was nigh for Field when, weeks before being sacked, he announced, Lilley-like, "dramatic" policies to attack fraud.

Darling is working to a set of three progressive principles, rather than imposing savings here and there. They are worth repeating, because they get lost in the hype:

• There should be employment opportunities for all.

• Provision should be made for those who are "incapable of work".

• Work should pay.

The principles were hammered out while he was still at the Treasury, although that does not mean Gordon Brown has taken over the welfare review. Indeed, some of Darling's former colleagues in the Treasury fear he has gone native. "He looks as if he is acting tough, but really he's still asking for a lot more money," observed one. In other words, do not expect the social security budget to fall as the Government improves, rather than radically overhauls, the welfare state.

Practical reforms within a social security budget that is likely to go up a little rather than down is no bad outcome, as long as ministers admit that is their aim. Any more over-hyped rhetoric will be a sign that they still have no confidence in what they are doing. If Darling sings a song at the next party conference and singles out cutting fraud as his main objective, we shall know that he has failed.

The author is political editor of the *New Statesman*

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The US Sunday papers consider the articles of impeachment to be voted on this week

peachment, there is something objectionable about yet another example of verbally excessive breast-beating combined with the appearance - devoid of the reality - of candor.

What would he right is for him to admit finally the now obvious facts that he lied under oath and either encouraged others to do so or at least knowingly tolerated their

doing so on his behalf. Then he could make the case, a case we grudgingly support that his offenses, while grave, should not cause his impeachment.

THE EXTREME punishment of removal from office is disproportionate to Mr Clinton's misconduct. Instead, both houses of Congress ought to pass a searing condemnation of Mr Clinton's disregard for the law.

This joint resolution would require the President's signature, which he indicated Friday he would consider.

Some critics have called such a censure an affront to the Constitution, which specifies the process of impeachment and conviction. On the contrary, it is a sensible middle ground between the overreaction of impeachment and the unacceptability of doing nothing.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He was asked at a public event what he wanted on his gravestone. Quick as a flash, he replied: 'I don't want to go.' Marcia Stanton, secretary to Lord Grade

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The owl of Minerva spreads its wings only with the falling of the dusk." GWF Hegel, German philosopher

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PANDORA

PRIME MINISTER Blair's unerring ability to ingratiate himself with whichever country he is visiting appears to arise from the fact that, at some point, he spent his family holidays there. Pandora notes that the trend (somewhat akin to the Pope's kissing the ground of whatever country he visits) started before Blair became Prime Minister.

During a Blair visit to Scotland in 1996, the *Daily Record* reported that "the Blairs have returned every year [to Scotland] on holiday or to see his auntie in Giffnock". When Blair addressed the Irish parliament last month he said he and his family had spent "virtually every childhood summer holiday" in the "beautiful countryside of Donegal" before the troubles started across the border in 1969. The young Blair's holidays must have prepared him well for the hectic life of premiership; let's not forget that he "watched the 1996 World Cup Final in a bar while on a family holiday in France". Sadly, Italy appears to have missed out on the young Blair's crusade to familiarise himself with every country in Europe before taking power.

On holiday in Tuscany in 1996 Blair remarked: "A lot of British people come here every year", but he made no mention of his own well-travelled family.

YESTERDAY'S ARTICLE in *The Sunday Times* relating the story of Britain's wartime plan to fool Hitler's U-boats by building motorised icebergs is short of one amusing detail. The operation, code-named *Habakkuk*, won the approval of Churchill and the Combined Chiefs of Staff (Army, Navy and Admiralty) but not without mishap. In *Marilyn, Hitler and Me*, the memoirs of the author and critic Milton Shulman, the story is told of one meeting of the Chiefs of Staff where Lord Mountbatten of the Admiralty demonstrates Pykrete, the reinforced ice from which the icebergs were to be built.

Mountbatten chose to demonstrate the material's resilience by shooting at it – but he didn't bargain for the rebound. The bullet missed the Air Chief Marshal by an inch.

AS STAFF of this paper look forward to their Christmas party this evening, Pandora has heard some interesting details of the festivities elsewhere. This year's Christmas bash

for *The Express* seems to have a come at a cost. Held at Babushka, just along Blackfriars Road from the United News & Media building, the happy event cost the princely sum of £5 to enter. One *Express* insider told Pandora that, to add insult to injury: "Only the first drink was free."

DR EVAN Harris MP, a Liberal Democrat health spokesman, has proved that he is something of a liability as far as spreading illness is concerned. Dr Harris stands accused of infecting a large number of his colleague's computers with a virus. Apparently the errant member for Oxford West and Abingdon has a habit of going into the nearest Lib Dem MP's office and popping his diseased disk into their computer slot so that he can polish off some last-minute work. Is there a suitable penance for the disruption to the Lib Dems' computer hardware? "I think it's a case of physician, heal thyself" quipped a party insider.

STELLA McCARTNEY (pictured) has been letting loose some of the pressure of being a celebrity offspring. The fashion designer, daughter of Paul and Linda McCartney tells *W* magazine she is "sick of this 'my parents' thing... it's not my fault, it was just the sperm that went to the egg." In the interview Stella, whose mother Linda, died from breast cancer earlier this year, explains how her father's fame was all-pervasive: "When I would make a good drawing in primary school, it was because my dad was famous. What do I do? Do I become a smacker and live off my parents' fortune, or do I have my own life?"

AT LAST week's Human Rights Awards, sponsored by the Law group Liberty and the Law Society *Gazette*, there was some levity before the serious business got under way. The journalist and legal affairs expert Marcel Berlins was master of ceremonies during an evening that saw the parents of Stephen Lawrence accept the Human Rights Award with composure and dignity. The first prize awarded was for the Human Rights Lawyer of the Year: introducing the nominees. Berlins quipped: "These people are people who have worked hard for no money, which I know is not a description that is usually attributed to lawyers."



DO GENERAL Pinochet's followers want him to return to Chile, or are they willing to let him die abroad?

They howl that their leader's arrest is unbearable. They swear that national sovereignty has been trampled by Jack Straw's recent decision to allow the extradition proceedings to go forward. They solemnly announce that it is up to Chileans to deal with their own internal affairs. And they claim that my country's delicate transition to democracy must be defended.

The Pinochetistas are now about to be given an opportunity to secure the repatriation of the man who used to be their president, the possibility of interrupting and impeding what they consider an affront to the honour of a former head of state. This opportunity will be handed to them by none other than the extremely maligned (by them) Home Secretary of Britain, the admirable Jack Straw himself.

Indeed, it as seems likely, the British courts find that there is valid cause for extraditing the dictator to Spain to face charges of genocide, terrorism and torture, then Jack Straw will find himself yet again confronted with the need to adjudicate whether General Pinochet should or should not be put on trial. The Home Secretary has

promised that, if that occasion should arise, he will then re-examine any new reasons and circumstances that might move him to reconsider his initial opinion.

One of those circumstances could, of course, be Pinochet's health, but what might in fact change Jack Straw's mind would be a more crucial political and moral consideration: proof that a genuine attempt has been made by Chilean society to have Pinochet tried by Chilean judges.

My country is confronted, there-

fore, by a challenge. And a deadline. We have a few months in which to convince Straw and the conscience of the world that there is indeed accountability in Chile and that it is in his own country where the general should be held responsible for his crimes or prove his innocence.

There is only one way to make these aspirations come true, to test these statements. And that is to institute significant changes in Chile.

Changes in the amnesty laws that Pinochet employed to pardon himself and his underlings. Changes in a constitution that has allowed the right wing, with only a third of the votes, to block legislation. Changes in the penal code that would punish those felons who, knowing where the "disappeared" of Chile are buried or how they were killed, hide that information from the law. Changes in the status of the armed forces so that in the future they will be subject to the popular will.

All these changes are difficult to carry out, but they at least have the advantage of being transparent and open and, therefore, negotiable. What is less easy to transform is something more intangible and yet also more consequential: the intimate identity of the Pinochetistas, the way in which they see the

country and understand the democratic process.

The extreme right wing of Chile, particularly after so many years of dictatorship during which they monopolised power, continues to consider my country as if it were their private feudal preserve, somewhat like an old-fashioned hacienda. It will take years, perhaps generations, to modify this kind of authoritarian mindset.

Those who were once the owners of Chile, those who act today as if they were still the only owners of the country, would have viscerally to interrogate their own conscience and comprehend the deep and irreparable pain they have inflicted on their compatriots. They would need to accept yesterday's enemies as their equals today. They would have to miraculously transfigure themselves into truly democratic members of the species.

As this moral transfiguration seems highly improbable, I prefer to appeal to something more concrete: their immediate interests, their yearning for the return of their beloved general. If his devotees really thirst for Pinochet to come home, if they are really worried that the fatherland has been desecrated by a "colonial power", if they really wish to end the inevitable division

Ariel Dorfman's latest book is *Heading South, Looking North*, a memoir about surviving the Pinochet regime



ARIEL DORFMAN

If Pinochet dies abroad, it will be because his followers did not try to deal with the past

Let digital TV help the Church convey its message



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

The market place is what drives the BBC, not its duties as a public service broadcaster



Television religion: carols at King's College, Cambridge BBC

find orchestral concerts on the box except, sparingly, when the Proms are under way. There is scarcely any opera or ballet. Sports-lovers, too, have much to complain about as the BBC loses the famous events to ITV or Sky. I enjoy Formula One motor racing – but not on BBC television any more. But I notice that *Songs of Praise* retains its position early on Sunday evenings. Last night on BBC1 at 5.40pm, it comprised Christmas gospel favourites.

What the Bishop and the rest of us have to accept is that because of the way in which the BBC is financed, it has a double duty. The licence fee payable by all is close to a power to tax. The BBC is thus driven to maximise audience share, particularly of television viewers, in order to justify this impost. And as competition has increased, first with the arrival of commercial television, then satellite, followed by cable, ratings have become more and more important. In consequence, minority interests have been driven to the late hours (thus *Midnight Mass* or *Panorama* at 10pm), where they have to compete with popular films that are considered unsuitable for children to watch before the nine o'clock watershed.

No amount of lecturing about the BBC's public service duties will change the nature of the marketplace in which the corporation finds itself. It is not that it is unaware of its special remit; of course not. But its special obligations can only be discharged at the edges of mainstream broadcasting.

However, this situation will not last. We are living through a revolution in information delivery. The arrival of digital technology means that we shall shortly leave a world in

which broadcasting frequencies are in short supply to one where they are plentiful. The multiplicity of satellite and cable channels is a foretaste of what is to come. Even now I can find all the opera and ballet I could possibly want on a specialist cable channel, though admittedly the productions are very old – but if it is Nureyev and if it is Callas, I don't mind very much. Formula One motor racing is on ITV, marred only by the advertisements. And Sky provides an excellent news bulletin on the hour, every hour.

In this changing world of increasing access to a variety of television services, there are big opportunities for religious groups. The Church of England should think of this: it can have its own channel. When we hear these words, we think of the American religious channels we may have seen, which are very far from what members of the Church of England would relish. But if the Church of England wants to have a television channel that it controls and runs, it can have one. Already a number of religious channels that can be received by British viewers have been licensed, though I confess that I have never watched Christian Channel London, Christian Channel Shopping, the Christian Children's Channel, the Christian Music Television Channel or even The European Family Christian Network.

Given that the Bishop of St Albans believes that television can effectively carry the Christian message and supplement attendance at Church, and the reading, thinking and prayers which the devout do in the privacy of their own homes, then he can look forward to the day, not too far distant, when the Church of England can meet this need entirely on its own terms. To be sure, setting up a Church of England television channel would cost money, but so does every new initiative. It can be done. It is a matter of will.

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'Post-modern' is an obsolete term



PODIUM

BERNARD SMITH
From a talk at the Tate Gallery, London, by an art history professor at the University of Melbourne, Australia

Modern Painters. But today we think of Gothic as Gothic, not modern; Giorgione as early Renaissance; Ruskin's painters, such as Turner, as Romantics. The modern, then, is normative, not a period style.

Modernisms are avant-garde movements that foreshadow period styles. Somewhere I recall reading that the Gothic was once called "le style moderne"; Vasari certainly called the art of Giorgione and Leonardo "la maniera moderna" and Ruskin, of course, wrote his

then institutionalised between the wars, and flourishes as a late style from 1945 to 1960. It is essentially a late-19th-century style that developed at a time when Europe was the colonial master of the world.

No art style created within a specific time-frame is going to be called modern for ever. But this raises sharply the semantic status of the post-modern. It is now free to be seen not as post-modernism but as the real modernism of the 20th century, which emerged during the First World War initially in the form of Dada and then was developed out of Dada, between the wars, by Surrealism in France and Neue Sachlichkeit in Germany, when the Formalesque was institutionalised itself.

On this view Dada, Surrealism and the Neue Sachlichkeit are not to be viewed merely as three more avant-garde movements within the steady flow of 20th-century modernism, but rather as modes of art practice that opposed all that the Formalesque stood for. They were certainly viewed most unfavourably by many of the most influential champions of the late Formalesque, such as

Clement Greenberg and William Rubin.

However, it is better not to view them simplistically, as independent modes, in binary opposition to the institutionalised Formalesque, but rather as operating in a kind of continuing dialectical feedback against its dominance.

Precisely because the Formalesque remained the dominant style until the Sixties even those oppositional modes were deeply coloured stylistically by it. Magritte, for example, is surreal in his imagery but Formalesque in his style. So are the others. That's what a period style does: it colours all it comes in contact with.

It is time now to place late-19th-century modernism within the history of art, and not pretend that that which was once modern is still modern. In the last three decades of this century we have chosen to exchange art that was grounded in the universalisms of autonomy, for the art of fragmentation. A 20th-century art that in the end decided to give up its 19th-century ambitions to create an imperial, universalising art.

THE INDEPENDENT

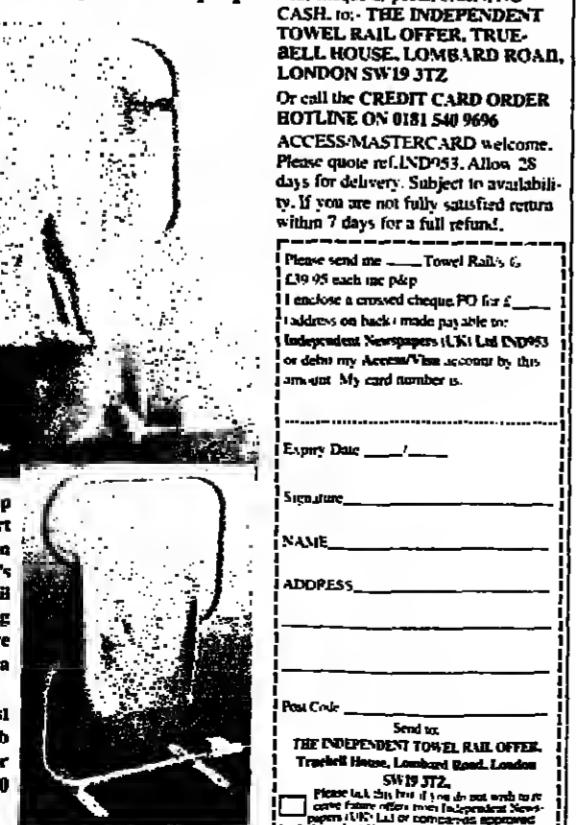
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I contend that the modernism that is said to have begun as an avant-garde style, with Manet or Brancusi or Frank Lloyd Wright or whoever, and came to dominate the art of the first half of this century, is now no longer modern. There exists now a powerful consensus, and one with which I agree, that it ceased to dominate art practice during the Sixties, when a new historical style that still goes by the absurd name of post-modernism suddenly appeared upon the intellectual horizon.

The word "post-modernism" is not only absurd, it's semantically vulnerable, because it depends, for its very name, upon a modernism that's no longer modern. On the other hand it invokes, so far as the future is concerned, an infinite regress of post-modernisms, post-post-modernism, etc. We must find a better way to describe what occurred during the Sixties and thereafter.

In my view, words such as "modern", "modernism", "modernity", possess a much more powerful semantic durability than words such as "post-

modern", "post-modernism". The word "modern" and its linguistic equivalents have served us since the sixth century to mean, broadly speaking, what my *New Shorter Oxford Dictionary* defines as "of or pertaining to the present and recent times". My hunch is that it will continue to mean just that, during the 21st century and beyond. But if this is so, post-modernism is likely to become a period-style term for the art and thought of the last three decades of this century. I contend that modernism has been an endemic component of art practice since the 15th century, but that, like Proteus, it changes its shape and look in response to new generational challenges and a gradual exhaustion of the imminent potential of historic styles.

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Magritte, for example, in his style.

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It is time now to place late-19th-century modernism within the history of

A real kitchen-sink drama



JOHN WALSH

The world of the television chef is one of deadly competition, with no room for compromise

IMAGINE a room filled with plumbbers; or with arbitrageurs; or with circuit judges; or with circus clowns; or with poets, or shoe fetishists, or supermarket check-out girls, or Savile Row tailors, or publishers, or burglars, or radiologists, or people in even more rarefied occupations, such as dowsers, chicken-sexers, or those glamorous women who parade around boxing rings while the pugilists are being swabbed and de-bloodied, carrying huge signs saying "Round 6" ... Imagine any of these groups of individuals from the same trade or profession or persuasion, think of them in an upstairs room, sharing the same oxygen and canapés, and ask yourself: what would they talk about? And how would they get on?

It's a seasonal enquiry, of course. In the pre-Christmas party season that lies ahead, there'll be thousands of such convocations across the land, thousands of petty rivalries and jealousies and flirtations and sudden, urgent clasps (and indeed uncasps) after midnight. There will be the usual carnage of embarrassments at company thrashes, the time-honoured games of "Telling the Group Head Where He Can Stick His Annual Assessment", the furtive advances by the "quiet ones" on the staff, and the unscheduled disrobing of the bought ledger department - but that doesn't concern us now.

What intrigues me is how groups of semi-professionals get together. Journalists, for instance, rarely talk about journalism at newspaper functions. They tell each other stories - that is, after all, the sort they swap in - and take the piss out of each other's pretensions to importance. But what about barristers? Do they say, "I freely concede that..." and "May I refer you to *Crown vs Pilkington-Smythe*, 1908" and bitch about the price of wigs and Michael Mansfield's fees? Armed robbers, when they meet in a nosy dive, discuss the virtues of the hammerless sawn-off shotgun or new trends in leather jackets? If you walked into a roomful of Treasury wanks, would you find them deep in discussion about whether Alanis Morissette had or hadn't extended the boundaries of the confessional lyric?



Beware the passionate intensity of celebrity chefs. Marco Pierre White, above, gets down to his real job, cooking

Some professional groupings behave according to type. I once attended a senior common room lunch at an Oxford college, where the menu promised a "traditional" baked-apple pudding dating from Tudor times, and witnessed a heated exchange, full of academic sneers and toxic put-downs, about the exact date at which sugar was introduced to English cooking. But, by and large, people remain people when they're huddled *en masse* in the company of their peers.

Just don't ever get me in the same room as a lot of celebrity chefs, that's all I ask. What a shower. Always barking with paranoia, always full of rivalry, always pugnacious, quick to anger and full of dyspeptic condemnation of their rivals, they're never going to be jolly company, are they? In a new book, *Bob Mullan*, a psychologist, interviews 18 of the blighters and, instead of learning the secrets of the perfect soufflé, finds himself presiding over a noisy cat-fight.

What does Tom Aikens of the hugely expensive Pied-à-Terre restaurant in London's Charlotte Street think of Nico Ladenis's

establishment, Chez Nico? "A pile of shit." What does the grand, world-conquering Marco Pierre White make of Pied-à-Terre? "Shit. The cooking falls apart." How does Michel Roux, sainted foodie doyen of the restaurant Le Gavroche, regard the views of Mr Ladenis? They're "bollocks with a capital B". What does Nico think of M. Roux? "He is like a dead sheep."

And so on. This a world of deadly competition with no room for compromise or compromise. The violent mutual dislike of the nation's top chefs is wondrous to behold. Their vicious squabbles over who "deserves" two or three Michelin stars are like schoolboys fighting over house points. And, we learn from Mullan, the violence of their language is often mirrored in their kitchens, where it's apparently routine for trainee chefs to get punched in the face for dropping a plate, and the lady straining over a hot stove at the super-trendy Pharmacy in Holland Park occasionally throws a pot of boiling legumes at the wall in a fit of irritation?

But where is Delia Smith in all this? The nation's favourite cook has

never, to my knowledge, opened a restaurant and thus has never had to suffer the consequences of strutting her stuff nightly. Though Gary Rhodes may have criticised her condescending approach to boiled water, she's never had to suffer the cruel slurs of the lavatorial Mr Aikens. Instead, from behind the restraints of the best-selling cookbook and the popular series, she lectures the country on Spanish omelettes in a delivery so precise, so Anglo-Irishly bossy that the country instantly does whatever she says. But what would she be like in a restaurant kitchen? Would she stop being fragrant and measured, and take on the spirit of all these warring chefs?

Picture it: *How to Cook with Delia Smith*, Episode 9.

Delia: Hello again. Today we're going to be making toad in the hole with saffron potatoes. Helping me in the kitchen today is my friend Eric, who lives next door. Eric, what's the first thing we do with toad in the hole?

Eric: Um. Ern. Chop an onion? Delia (tinkly laugh): Oh, dear me no. The first thing we do is get out at least 24 little glass bowls and

measure pointlessly tiny amounts of ingredients into them, one by one, including "oil" and "pinch of salt". It takes hours, and it's hell to wash up, but it looks good on TV.

Eric: Righty-ho.

Delia: Now, we put the flour into this bowl, make a little well, drop in the egg, and whisk it until we have a lovely batter. Eric, what are you doing?

Eric: Peeling the spuds, Delia.

Delia: Not with a potato-peeler, you silly boy. You must use the Tungsten Steel Advanced Tuber-Flaying Implement that I've been recommending the nation to use, a snip at £19.99.

Eric: Sorry. Shall I get out the sausages?

Delia: Cooking sausages is an essential element in English cuisine, yet people constantly get it wrong. Simply take the sausage in the right hand, place it on the hot, oily surface of the frying-pan and leave it there.

Eric: You forgot to prick them with a fork.

Delia: Don't you tell me what to do. you pipsqueak.

Eric: But I thought you were

supposed to prick sausages. Delia: Listen, sweetie, who's the one with the Sainsbury's contract round here? Who sells 60,000 discounted bardbacks a week - me or you?

Eric (mutinously): It's only sausages.

Delia (screams): It's my life's work! Telling people how to cook more and more elementary dishes in increasingly elementary ways! And you come in here telling me how to run my kitchen...

Eric: OK. OK. (Backs away.) No need to get excited. (Drops whisk.) Oops.

Delia: My egg whisk! Or, more precisely, my De Luxe Aluminium Ovum Flagellator! Take that! (punches Eric on nose).

Eric: Ow. Ow. This is assault.

Delia: And batter! (Throws bowl of liquid at Eric's head.) Now get out. Eric: Christ. I'm bleeding.

Delia: Aha! (Turns to camera.) Black pudding can be a nourishing and inexpensive addition to any breakfast. First, catch 50 fluid ounces of blood in a bowl, or more accurately a Premium Grade Plated Chrome Haemoglobin Receptacle, only £4.75.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DONALD BRUCE



The head of the Society, Religion and Technology Project of the Church of Scotland replies to our leading article

CLONING EMBRYOS for transplant cells has become the latest medical holy grail. Remarkably, the report of the Human Genetics Advisory Commission and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority fails to discuss whether this is ethical.

It explores why cloning a human being is wrong - although missing the most conclusive ethical argument: that no human being should have the right to control the complete genetic complement of another. It rightly concludes we should say "No" to creating a cloned embryo and allowing it to go on to become a baby. Yet it gives no ethical case to justify creating the same cloned embryo and in effect killing it off for spare parts.

This ultimate aim of the research - to use embryos for such non-reproductive use - raises a profound ethical dilemma. The report only says that it wouldn't change the law very much, and implies that medical possibilities override other considerations. What no one asks is how can it be right to create a cloned embryo, knowing full well you would have to destroy it on ethical grounds to avoid cloning a human?

The HFEA consultation document quotes the Warnock Report that "the human embryo ought to have special status" - restricting embryo use primarily to research on reproduction. If the Government accepts these recommendations, as you want it to, we will *de facto* have removed the special status. The biggest use, if the proponents are right, will be as sources of spare parts.

We should now begin a nationwide public consultation to find out if a society - not just the 200 of us who submitted evidence - we agree or disagree with this profound change. Personally, I have my doubts.

A wiseguy's view of the world



MONDAY BOOK

EAT THE RICH: A TREATISE ON ECONOMICS
BY PJ O'Rourke
PICADOR, £16.99

BACK IN the roaring, Reaganite Eighties - when trickle-down economics, Bolivian marching powder and Paisley braces were the benchmarks of hip taste - PJ O'Rourke burst on to the journalistic scene as the consummate popular essayist for those venal times. Smart, smart-arsed and unapologetically libertarian, O'Rourke was that perfect Eighties species: a wise-guy conservative. Or, to be oxymoronic, he was a hip Republican: a term that now seems as preposterous as "funky Mormon", especially since American Republicanism has become a by-word for sexual McCarthyism, mean-spiritedness and moral hypocrisy.

Back in the era of "greed is good", O'Rourke's caustic dispatches played to a willing audience of twentysomething supply-siders: the sort of folk who had read their Adam Smith, considered Milton Friedman the ultimate economic guru, and voted twice for Reagan and once for Bush... but

MONDAY POEM

POISONED GLEN
BY MOYRA DONALDSON

Hold your breath.
A woman could drown
in these dark loughs,
cold as forever.
Learn how to stop
at the surface,
see no deeper.
It is a kind of courage
to hear only what is said
- I love you -
balanced on liquid tension
like a pond skater.

Beneath, something almost seen,
a fin's flash in the dark weeds.

This poem comes from Moyra Donaldson's first collection, *Snakeskin Stilettos* (Logan Press, Belfast BT7 1NR: £5.95).

still inhaled. Indeed, his appeal wasn't based simply on his skewed wit, but also on his ability to play the patriotic card without sounding like a bumptious flag-flagger.

His underlying world-view - which could best be described as "America rocks, the rest of the world sucks" - won fans in every beer-guzzling fraternity across the States. Even left-leaning Democrats found themselves amused by O'Rourke's sharp wit and his belief in all-American hedonism. O'Rourke's image was of a right-wing debauchee, whose philosophy was: you can be conservative, but still have fun.

Nowadays, most debauchees would not find the Republican Party hospitable. Neither, you sense, does O'Rourke - who goes to great, subtle lengths in *Eat The Rich* to distance himself from the party of Ken Starr and the right-to-lifers. Rather, he makes it clear throughout this amusing, if deeply superficial jaunt around world financial markets that he is an old-fashioned libertarian: a believer in free will, in free markets, in keeping the state out of your bedroom - and in wealth as a Good Thing.

"Wealth is good," he argues. "Wealth is good when a lot of people have it. It's good when a few people have it. This is because money is a tool, nothing more... Rich people are heroes. They don't usually mean to be, but that's their problem, not ours."

Book this man in for tea with Lady Thatcher. Beneath the acerbic bravado beats the heart of a serious fiscal conservative. Without question, *Eat The Rich* will appeal to those folk who know nothing about economic theory, and who never travel. As a reportage, these dispatches from, say, Wall Street and Albania (Good Capitalism/ Bad Capitalism), or Sweden and Cuba (Good Socialism/ Bad Socialism) are noteworthy for their splendid one-liners, and for their lack of depth. But depth is not what you expect from O'Rourke. Instead you expect jokes, eg his view

of Albania and its "isolated and outlandish communist guerrilla chieftain, Enver Hoxha... by the time Hoxha died in 1985, Albania wasn't on speaking terms with any place but North Korea and maybe the English department at Yale."

I certainly laughed at that line. Just as I laughed at O'Rourke's description of a hideous journey on the Trans-Siberian Express ("if your compartment is on the south side of the train, as mine was, you can use it to bake pies"). Just as I laughed at his chapter of basic economic theory: "Economists measure supply and demand with curves on graphs. When the supply curve goes up, the demand curve goes down. But how true is this? Do I get less hungry because I know I have a freezerful of pizza?"

And I also laughed at this anecdote from his Albanian travels: "There was an Albanian family at the next table: handsome young husband,

pretty wife, baby in a stroller, cute four-year-old girl bouncing on her dad's knee. The girl grabbed the cigarette from between her father's lips and tried a puff. Mom and Dad laughed. Dad took the cigarette back. Then he pulled a pack of Marlboros from his shirt pocket, offered a fresh cigarette to the little girl, and gave her a light."

In short, *Eat The Rich* is fun as long as you focus on O'Rourke's punchy wit and sardonic brio. But as a populist take on the pre-millennial divide between triumphant capitalism and collapsing socialism, it is thin stuff. You never really sense that he has engaged with any of the territories he is covering: the seems to have met few locals; nor is he particularly good at conjuring up a sense of place with the sort of atmospheric complexity that distinguishes first-rate travel writing.

But O'Rourke really isn't a travel writer. Just as he really isn't an economist. Just as he really isn't a proper political commentator.

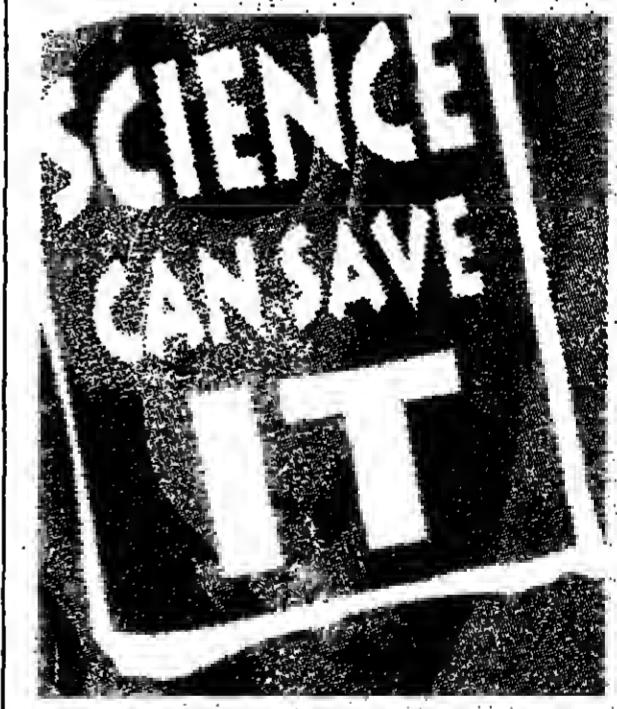
So what is he? A wiseguy. Perhaps the cleverest wiseguy de nos jours. And yes, that is a back-handed compliment.

DOUGLAS KENNEDY

The reviewer's latest novel is *The Job* (published by Little, Brown).



The market logic of greed is good: Michael Douglas in the film 'Wall Street'



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Max Streibl

THE AMIGO affair sounded like a follow up to one of those American musicals of the 1940s, *Down Argentine Way* or *Brazil*. But it was a much more serious drama played out in southern Germany, not Argentina, and it involved the Minister-President (Prime Minister) of Bavaria, Max Streibl.

Streibl was forced to resign on 27 May 1993 after allegations that he favoured his "amigo", Burkhard Grob, an aviation entrepreneur, who wanted to get lucrative defence contracts. Streibl had accepted free flights, holidays and visits to the "amigo's" Brazilian ranch. He also used the planes and cars of Bavarian firms for private purposes. Earlier in 1993 the Federal Defence Minister Volker Ruhe cancelled orders for the US-designed Lapan high-altitude reconnaissance plane, to be built under licence in Bavaria. This was seen as a move linked to the "amigo" scandal.

Max Streibl was born in Oberammergau in 1932 and studied law at the University of Munich. He joined the Bavarian State Chancellery in 1960. Two years later he was elected to the Bavarian parliament. His progress was rapid. He served as Minister for Land Development and Environment from 1970 to 1977 and then as Finance Minister of Bavaria 1977-88. These were key ministries in this 11-million-strong state, a base for hi-tech industries, home of many banks yet maintaining a strong agricultural sector.

Streibl owed his early success to his position as Secretary-General of the Christian Social Union (CSU) from 1967 to 1971 and to his friendship with Franz Josef Strauss. The CSU is Germany's most successful political party and although it has always had an alliance with the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in the rest of Germany, it regards itself as having a distinctive identity. In the Bavarian regional election of 1970 the CSU increased its share of the poll from 48.1 per cent to 56.4 per cent. This absolute majority was maintained to the 1990s. In the German federal elections it was the same story, with the CSU scoring an absolute majority in Bavaria from 1957 onwards. From that date the CSU has led the government in Bavaria.

Streibl was elected Minister-President of Bavaria in 1988 following the death of his predecessor and mentor, Franz Josef Strauss. Yet in some ways his election was a reaction against Strauss. Strauss longed for power in Bonn having held office as Defence Minister and Finance Minister. Driven from national office he sought, as Bavarian Minister-President from 1978, to project himself and his state internationally. He

visited South Africa, Pinochet's Chile and Communist East Germany, irritating Chancellor Kohl in the process. Strauss was the first national (federal) politician to hold this position.

Usually the Minister-President was someone not looking for a role beyond Bavaria. Streibl appeared content to run Bavaria. Strauss had also been CSU leader so the chairmanship of the CSU went, not to Streibl, but Theo Waigel, chairman of the CSU group in the federal parliament, the Bundestag. This reduced the concentration of power within the CSU but emphasised the CSU's continuing interest in a federal role.

Together, Streibl and Waigel faced a potentially dangerous challenge in Bavaria. This came from the party of the so-called Republikaner founded by Bavarian Franz Schuhuber, former deputy editor-in-chief of the Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation, and other disaffected CSU members in 1987. It supported German re-unification and neu-

'We aren't anti-foreigner, but our country has the right, just like other countries, to keep its own identity'

tralism. It was anti-Nato, anti-EEC, anti-corruption and, above all, against West Germany's "guest workers". It looked like stealing the CSU's thunder with its strong stand on law and order. It struck a chord among a significant number of Germans, by no means all of them extremists, who feared Germany would disappear in a nuclear holocaust, be destroyed by the corruption of its elite or be overrun by foreigners.

Streibl and his colleagues were shocked when the Republicans broke into the West Berlin Parliament in February 1989. After the election he said, "We aren't anti-foreigner, but our country has the right, just like other countries, to keep its own identity".

In an effort to help the CSU, Kohl promoted Waigel to Finance Minister, the third most important cabinet post. Neither Streibl's words of reassurance to more conservative-minded voters nor Waigel's promotion failed to stop Schö-



Resigned as Minister-President of Bavaria in 1993

huber, and two other Republicans, being elected to the European Parliament later in the year. With a federal election looming in 1990 the CSU was as worried as its sister party, Kohl's CDU.

The situation was transformed within months by *Die Wende*, the revolt that brought about the end of Communist East Germany and the restoration of German unity. Streibl's CSU sought to have an influence in this direction by backing a new party in the disintegrating East Germany, the German Social Union (DSU), which for a short time appeared a significant party. With Kohl putting his party's weight behind the East German CDU, a former satellite of the Communists, the DSU soon faded. In the first all-German elections of 1990 Kohl's CSU swept back to power and with it Streibl's CSU. The Republicans virtually disappeared. In the regional elections the CSU maintained its absolute majority with 51.9 per cent.

Streibl's political successes attracted the attention of industrialists and bankers and he was invited to the supervisory boards of several companies such as Baywerk AG, Messerschmidt-Bölkow, Rhein-Main Donau AG, Lufthansa and so on. He also penned a number of volumes like *Verantwortung für Alle. Die Freiheit fordert Jeden* ("Responsibility For All, Freedom Challenges Everyone", 1980). Once the accusations against him started to mount he soon found that his colleagues felt he had failed the challenge which freedom demands. It was a case of *adios amigo!*

DAVID CHILDS

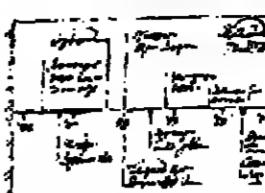
Mar Streibl, politician; born Oberammergau, Germany 6 January 1932; Minister-President of Bavaria 1983-93; married 1960 Irmgard Jungblut (two sons, one daughter); died Munich 11 December 1998.

THE DOORS of polling stations opened at eight o'clock on the morning of 14 December 1918, in the general election that followed the ending of the World War. For the first time, women could walk inside and vote – unless they happened to be under 30 years old or living in furnished accommodation. Full equality with male voters didn't come until 1928. In spite of that, there were more than eight million women electors on the register in 1918, and a lot of misgivings among the political establishment about the impact of such a large and unpredictable number of new voters.

Meetings were organised by various bodies all over the country to educate them. At a talk at Hereford town hall on "The New Woman Voter and her Responsibilities" the Bishop of Hereford informed his unenthusiastic audience that he had always regarded female suffrage with deepest misgivings and hoped that women would still stay at home and look after their families. The Liberal Party took a more positive line. Its election advert in *The Times* promised "removal of artificial restrictions on women's opportunities", tactfully not mentioning that a Liberal government had failed to give the women the vote in the bitter years of the suffragette struggle just before the war. The hope that women would bring a more humane and caring approach

to politics was already surfacing. On polling day, only 17 of the 1,623 candidates watching anxiously as the people trickled in to cast their votes were women. It had been a scramble for them to stand at all. One of the last acts of the outgoing government, less than a month before polling day, was to give women the chance to be candidates. Some of them leapt at it. The veteran campaigner Charlotte Despard, at 74 years old, put up a brave fight for Labour in Battersea North in Hendon. The independent candidate Edith How Martyn set up her committee rooms in a shop selling babies' prams. Another independent, Mrs Strachey, standing in Chiswick, was delighted to be offered the receiving end of some eggs – presented as a gesture of support, not hurling. Eggs were too scarce and expensive after the war to be used as missiles.

One of the few women candidates who seemed to have a fighting chance was Christabel Pankhurst. Immediately war broke out, she and her mother Emmeline had diverted their energies to army recruiting campaigns and stridently patriotic speeches. Emmeline called in the debt by demanding and getting the support of the prime minister, David Lloyd George, for Christabel who stood in Smethwick with policies that largely consisted of taking a firm line against Germans, pacifists, anarchists and Bol-



HISTORICAL NOTES

GILLIAN LINSCOTT

A woman's place is in the polling booth

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

CLARKE: Bruce Robert Duncan, born 3 October 1924, died 11 December 1998 in intensive care following a heart attack. Funeral arrangements from 0171-334 3221.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing (please include a daytime telephone number), are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Susan Lambert, "Masterpieces of Lithography", 2pm. British Museum: Andy Meadows, "Early Monetary Unions: an introduction", 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Robert Wenley, "Collectors: Sir Richard Wallace", 1pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh visits Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire; and visits Collingwood College,

BIRTHDAYS

Captain the Hon Sir Nicholas Beaumont, Director High Gosforth Park, 69; Miss Jane Birkin, actress, 52; Ms Christine Butler MP, 55; Mrs Ann Cryer MP, 59; General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, 86; The Right Rev Jhn Grindrod, former Archibishop of Brisbane, 79; Sir Anthony Kershaw, former MP, 63; Miss Barbara Leigh-Hunt, actress, 63; Mr Thomas McAvoy MP, Comptroller of HM Household, 55; Sir Malcolm McIntosh, chief executive, CSIRO, 53; Mr Charles Munnis, former MP and government minister, 72; Sir Jhn Osborn, former MP, 76; Dame Ruth Ralton, founder of the National Youth Orchestra, 33; Miss Janette Scott, actress, 60; Mr Stan Smith, tennis player, 52; Sir Simon Towneley, former Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, 77; Miss Rosalyn Tureck, conductor, lecturer and writer, 84.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Nostradamus (Michel de Nostredame) astrologer and prophet, 1503; Tycho Brahe, astronomer and mathematician, 1546; Henry IV of Navarre, King of France, 1553; Daniel Neal, cleric and historian, 1678; James Bruce, explorer of Africa, 1730; Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald, admiral, 1775; The Rev Charles Wolfe, poet, 1791; Baldassare Gamucci, composer, 1822; Pierre Puvis de Chavannes, mural painter, 1824; Roger Elliot Fry, painter and critic, 1866; Joseph Jongen, composer, 1873; George VI, King, 1885; Paul Eluard (Eugène Grindel), poet, 1895; King Paul I of the Hellenes, 1901; Kurt von Schuschnigg, Austrian chancellor, 1897; Shirley Jackson, writer, 1919.

Deaths: Sir John Oldcastle, Baron Cobham, hanged and burnt 1417; James V King of Scotland, 1542; Henry Aldrich, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, composer and architect, 1710; Thomas Rymer, archaeologist, 1713; Thomas Tenison, Archishop of Canterbury, 1715; Sir William Trumbull, statesman, 1716; Giovanni Battista Cipriani, painter and engraver, 1758; Charles III, King of Spain, 1788; Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, composer, 1788; George Washington, first US President, 1799; Conrad Matthei-Brun (Matteo Conrad Brun), geographer, 1826; John Claudius Loudon, botanical writer, 1843; George Hamilton Gordon, fourth Earl of Aberdeen, statesman, 1860; Albert, Prince Consort, 1861; Heinrich August Marschner, operatic composer, 1861; George Hudson, the "railway king", 1871; Louis-Jean Rodolphe Agassiz, naturalist, 1873; Richard Redgrave, painter, 1888; Sir Oswald Walters Brierly, marine painter, 1894; Sidonio Bernardino Cardoso da Silva Paes, president of Portugal, assassinated 1918; Maurice Baring, novelist, playwright and poet, 1945; Stanley, first Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, statesman, 1947; Will Fyffe, comedian, 1947; Margaret Kinnan Rawlings, 1952.

On this day: Mary acceded to the Scottish throne, 1542; Alabama became the 22nd of the United States, 1819; St James's Theatre, London, opened as the Prince's Theatre, 1835; the first section of the London and Greenwich railway opened, 1836; HMS *Bombar*, 2,783 tons, was destroyed by fire near Montevideo, with the loss of 91 lives, 1864; Max Planck put forward his quantum theory, 1900; Germany put her first U-boat into service at Kiel, 1906; Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole, 1911; Crete was formally annexed to Greece, 1913; Constance, Countess Markievicz (Sinn Fein) became the first woman to be elected to the British parliament, although she did not take her seat, 1914; by a large majority, the Danish people voted to sell the Danish West Indies to the United States, 1916; women in Britain voted for the first time at the general election, 1918; Puccini's opera *Giovanni Schicchi* was first performed, Milan, 1918; in Turkey, women were granted the vote, 1934; the League of Nations condemned and expelled the Soviet Union for aggression against Finland, 1939.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Nicholas John Coleman and Mr Jonathan Richard Playford QC, to be circuit judges, on the South Eastern Circuit. Mr John Armitage, Lord Hunt of Wirral, Professor Maxwell Irvine, Miss Patricia Huot and The Rev Professor E.W. Nicholson, to be Governors of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth. Mr David Madden, to be ambassador to the Hellenic Republic. Mr John Martin, to be British High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus. Mr Rupert Matthew Jackson QC, to be a Justice of the High Court. M. Michel Van Doosje, immediate past President of the Council of the Bars and Societies of Europe, to be Honorary Master of the Bench of Middle Temple. Mr Nicolas Dusau Bratza QC, to be a Justice of the High Court. Mr Edward Glover, to be British High Commissioner to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. The Right Rev Tim Stevens, Suffragan Bishop of Dunwich, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, to be Bishop of Leicester.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

CASE SUMMARIES

14 DECEMBER 1998

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Maintenance

Joseph Joseph: Fam Div (Johnson) 28 Nov 1998. AN APPLICATION under s 35 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 to vary a deed of maintenance did not affect the death of the applicant. It would be unjust if the applicant's estate were prevented from seeking a proper adjustment of such a debt by reason of his death.

Lady Joseph appeared in person. Florence Baron QC, Stewart Leech (Gordon Dadds) for the applicant.

Education

Ealing Borough Council v White CA (Butler-Sloss, Ward, Robert Walker LJ) 2 Dec 1998. IN ORDER to stop the relitigation of issues already decided by a Special Educational Needs Tribunal it was not necessary to invoke issue estoppel, since Parliament had provided the tribunal with a statutory power to strike out proceedings under reg 36 of the Special Educational Tribunal Regulations 1995.

John Friel, Deborah Hoy (Council for the appellant); Peter E. Barlow QC, Zita Nabi (Keppel Shaw) for the respondents.

Practice

Venables v MGN Ltd and anor: CA (Beldam, Ottow, Mantell LJ) 2 Dec 1998. WHERE THERE was an issue as to causation in a personal injury action, a defendant was not required to make a payment into court in order to protect himself in costs, but might make an offer under RSC Ord 22 r 14(1). The court then had to take the offer into account under Ord 82 r 9(1). An offer made under Ord 22 r 14(1) should be one which disposed of the proceedings or an issue in the proceedings.

Raymond Machel QC, Mark Turner QC (Lace Mawer) for the appellant; Kenneth Hamer, Toby Riley-Smith (Collins) for the respondent.

ever, likely to be rarely used, and only with adequate notice. Marion Lonsdale (Salisbury Robinson and Turner, Leicester) for the appellant; Hugo Keigh (Solicitors for the Commissioners).

Costs

Hobin v Douglas: CA (Roch, Swinton Thomas and Schleman LJ) 3 Dec 1998.

WHERE THERE was an issue as to causation in a personal injury action, a defendant was not required to make a payment into court in order to protect himself in costs, but might make an offer under RSC Ord 22 r 14(1). The court then had to take the offer into account under Ord 82 r 9(1). An offer made under Ord 22 r 14(1) should be one which disposed of the proceedings or an issue in the proceedings.

Raymond Machel QC, Mark Turner QC (Lace Mawer) for the appellant; Kenneth Hamer, Toby Riley-Smith (Collins) for the respondent.

Insurance

Friends Provident Linked Life Assurance Ltd: Cb Div (Neuberger J) 4 Dec 1998.

THE REFERENCE to "long-term business" in para 11(1) of Sch 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982 applied equally to reinsurance business as it did to insurance business where all or part of the risk undertaken by an insurer under a contract which constituted "long-term business" was laid off under the reinsurance contract. An arrangement which was in reality a surrender or cancellation of an insurance policy should not, however, be treated as if it were a transfer of business. Robin Hollington (Friends Provident Life Office) for the petitioner.

ALWAYS EXPECT the unexpected. This is a sound rule. Even so, I hardly guessed that a stout parcel I received in the post would contain Katherine Barber's new Canadian Oxford Dictionary.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

flowage, n.

Dictionary

That land-mass has long been a by-word for jibes since the *Daily Express* meant, back in 1928, when it noted that "one of the most descriptive Canadian

dianisms is the word 'kick' instead of 'thrill'".

Seventy years on, and this dictionary is hardly chockablock with the wild mintings upon which the press release dwells (Molson muscle; heer-belly; dipsy-doodle; evasion), but things emerge, such as a use of *flowage* not in the OED: a shallow pond.

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10 JULY 1990

COMMUNITIES
and self-groups
are springing up
every day - in
cities like...
By Matt Jones

A

Open

LAST WEEK marked a few more milestones on the Road Ahead. Without Microsoft. The recently-released Linux Office Suite was announced. It is the first complete, native office productivity package based on open-source code that can compete with Windows. It delivers fast, fluid performance on spreadsheets, word processing, presentations, graphics, database programs and various other exciting goodies.

The beauty of it is that the source code to this software is free and you are welcome to improve on it and distribute the improvements to your friends and other people seeking Bill-Gates-like screens.

Linux, the operating system that is supported by a community of developers, rather than a single company, has finally moved to the level where your accounts can be compiled and presentations prepared without the guys from Redmond getting their usual bounty.

The second important event of the week was an announcement from Sun Microsystems,

Stores come in three types – all disagreeable

I WENT into a Toys 'R' Us the other day with my youngest so that he could spend some time he had come into. (He had gone short on Anaconda Copper against his brother's advice, the little scamp. And, entirely by the way, isn't Toys 'R' Us the most mystifying name of a commercial concern you have ever heard of? What does it mean? I have never understood it. Are they saying they believe themselves to be toys? Do their executives carry business cards saying 'Dick 'R' Me'? And why is the 'R' backwards in the title? Surely not in the hope that it will enhance our admiration? Why, above all, is it that even though there are 37 checkout lanes at every Toys 'R' Us in the world, only one of them is ever open?

These are important questions, but sadly this is not our theme today, at least not specifically. No, our theme today, as we stand on the brink of the busiest retail week of the year, is shopping. To say that shopping is an important part of American life is like saying that fish appreciate water.

Apart from working, sleeping, watching TV and accumulating fatty tissue, Americans devote

more time to shopping than to any other pastime. Indeed, according to the Travel Industry Association of America, shopping is now the number one holiday activity of Americans. People actually plan their vacations around shopping trips. Hundreds of thousands of people a year travel to Niagara Falls, it transpires, not to see the falls but to wander through its two mega-malls. Soon, if developers in Arizona get their way, holidaymakers will be able to travel to the Grand Canyon and not see it either, for there are plans, if you can believe it, to build a 450,000-square-foot shopping centre by its main entrance.

Shopping these days is not so much a business as a science. There is even now an academic discipline called retail anthropology whose proponents can tell you exactly where, how and why people shop the way they do. They know which proportion of customers will turn right upon entering a store (87 per cent) and how long on average those people will browse before wandering out again two minutes and 35 seconds. They know the best ways to lure you ask.

shoppers into the magic, high-margin depths of the shop (an area known in the trade as "Zone 4") and the layouts, colour schemes and background music that will most effectively hypnotise the unassuming browser into becoming a helpless purchaser. They know everything.

So here is my question. Why, then, is it that I cannot go shopping in America without wanting either to burst into tears or kill someone? For all its science, you see, shopping in this country is no longer a fun experience, if it ever was.

A big part of the problem is the stores. They come in three types, all disagreeable.

First, there are the stores where you can never find anyone to help you. Then there are the stores where you don't want any help, but you are pestered to the brink of madness by a persistent sales assistant, probably working on commission. Finally, there are the stores where, when you ask where anything is, the answer is always "Aisle seven." I don't know why, but that is what they always tell you.

"Where's women's lingerie?" you ask.



BRYSON'S AMERICA

"Aisle seven."
"Where's pet food?"
"Aisle seven."
"Where's aisle six?"
"Aisle seven."
My least favourite of all store types is the one where you can't get rid of the sales assistant. Usually these are department stores at big malls. The sales assistant is always a white-haired lady working in the menswear department.

"Can I help you find anything?" she says.
"No thank you, I'm just browsing," you tell her.

"OK," she replies, and gives you a smarmy smile that says: "I don't really like you. I'm just required to smile at everyone."

So you wander round the department and at some point you idly finger a sweater. You don't know why because you don't like it, but you touch it anyway.

In an instant, the sales assistant is with you. "That's one of our most popular lines," she says. "Would you like to try it on?"

"No, thank you."

"Go ahead, try it on. It's you."

"No, I really don't think so."

"The changing rooms are just there."

"I really don't want to try it on."

"What's your size?"

"Please understand, I don't want to try it on. I'm just browsing."

She gives you another smile – her withdrawing smile – but 30 seconds later she is back, bearing another sweater. "We have it in peach," she announces.

"I don't want that sweater in any colour."

"How about a nice tie, then?"

"I don't want a tie. I don't want a sweater. I don't want anything. My wife is having her legs waxed and told me to wait for her here. I wish she hadn't, but she did. She could be hours and I still

won't want anything, so please don't ask me any more questions. Please."

"Then bow are you off for pants?"

Do you see what I mean? It becomes a choice between tears and manslaughter. The irony is that when you actually require assistance there is never anyone around.

At Toys 'R' Us my son wanted a Star Troopers Intergalactic Cosmic Death Blaster, or some such piece of plastic mayhem. We couldn't find one anywhere, nor could we find anyone to guide us. The store appeared to be in the sole charge of a 16-year-old boy at the single active checkout till. He had a queue of about two dozen people, which he was processing very slowly and methodically.

Patient queuing is not one of my advanced social skills, particularly when I am queuing simply to acquire information. The line moved with painful slowness. At one point the young man took 10 minutes to change a till roll, and I nearly killed him then. At last my turn came.

"Where's the Star Troopers Intergalactic Cosmic Death Blasters?" I said.

"Aisle seven," he replied without looking up.

I stared at the top of his head. "Don't trifle with me," I said.

He looked up. "Excuse me."

"You people always say 'Aisle seven'."

There must have been something in my look because his answer came out as a kind of whimper. "But, mister, it is aisle seven – Toys of Violence and Aggression."

"It'd better he," I said darkly and departed.

Ninety minutes later we found the Death Blasters in aisle two, but by the time I got back to the till the young man had gone off duty. The Death Blaster is wonderful, by the way. It fires those rubber-capped darts that stick to the victim's forehead – not painful, but certainly startling. My son was disappointed, of course, that I wouldn't let him have it, but you see I need it for when I go shopping.

Extracted from *'Notes from a Big Country'* by Bill Bryson, published by Doubleday at £16.99. Available from all major bookshops, and by mail order on 01624 675137.

Long-distance love



James's life is kind of unnatural,' says Marie of her husband, who is fed up with living in London. 'I don't like living away from home,' he says

John Voos

Mare Boyle
I cope much better than James does with a long-distance relationship – but then, I've all the support of home, my own things around me, my own friends; it's a much more natural situation. And in fact sometimes, when you're working full time, it's quite nice to have a weekend to yourself. I car to Glasgow to see my parents, for example, without feeling that I'm intruding on the time James and I have together.

We've lived this kind of life for about two years now. The decision was quite easy. For a start, I was in a full-time job I really liked, and I didn't want to leave it. For nearly 15 years I've worked in a language unit at a school in Edinburgh; it's for children who have various kinds of language and communications disorders.

When James's latest job came up we'd already moved several times for his career. Some years ago we went from Glasgow to Guildford. Then, when we went back to Scotland, it was to Edinburgh. We'd moved our three boys to new schools three times. This time we decided that the boys and I would stay put.

Had the children been younger, we might have considered moving again, but not at this late stage. I felt that, having left family and friends behind, we were to be ensconced to do it again. The boys are older now, of course, but one of them is still at home and another has returned. He was at university in Glasgow but he's come home. The two of them are in and out of the house.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

When James Boyle became Controller of Radio 4 nearly three years ago, he and his wife Marie took the decision to have a long-distance relationship: James would live in London during the week, and Marie would continue to live and work in Edinburgh. The couple have been married for 29 years, and have three sons

James and I try to meet every weekend, either here in London or, more often, in Scotland. We always try to do something special on Friday nights – dinner out, or the theatre – because Fridays can be tricky, while you readjust: you're longing to be together, but you're both tired...

In recent months it's been more fraught for James and he's not been able to get home as often as he'd have liked. There have been a couple of weekends when he's not managed to get away at all, so that it's been two or three weeks before we've seen each other. And when he is home, the mobile phone keeps ringing. I do find that very disruptive.

James's life is kind of unnatural. He doesn't like his flat – he keeps saying he's got to move – but he never has time to look for another place. He's quite a home person and I do worry about not being there to support him, especially when Radio 4 is under attack. In fact, when that happened last, when the Rajah figures came out, it was during my half-term week in October and we had to cancel our holiday in Madrid. I went down to London anyway, and was in the office for a lot

of that week. It was good to see the support he got, and a lot of people came and spoke to me and gave me some comfort. But I know he finds it very stressful. On the other hand, he's quite good at being alone in these circumstances. In some ways, I think it's the way he prefers to deal with things. We phone each other every day, and in the long run he doesn't let it get him down. He does bounce back.

This last weekend, James came up to give a lecture at Edinburgh University on Saturday, then we both went south for a big Asian festival at the NEC at Birmingham in the evening. Then it was back to London for the recording of the annual Radio 4 pantomime. I'll be on the first plane home tomorrow. My son will meet me at the airport and I'll go straight into school. The only problem I can foresee is that I'll be tired for a day or two.

James Boyle
I don't like living away from home. It's been nearly three years now and it doesn't get any better. I'm losing my tolerance for this way of life. I'm totally worn out, totally unfit – never get out into the fresh air. Only

this morning we came home – or rather, back to my London flat – and the burglar alarms were screaming from the shops around the place. I hate it. The trouble is that I'm not methodical about dealing with it all. I'm so completely oriented towards my work. I say to myself, every day, "I must deal with this. I must get out more." In fact, I bought myself a pair of track-suit bottoms – I had visions of myself jogging around Grosvenor Square – but I'm the least sporty person in the world. The best I've done is to wear them to go downstairs and open the front door to put the bins out. And you see, I always was very home-oriented, completely unadventurous. That is why I liked Radio 4 so much. I was your ideal housewife. I have listened to the radio incessantly, all my life; I used to write letters to the broadcasters. I wrote to Tony Hancock when I was a kid. When I was interviewed for this job, people thought all that was a pose, but it wasn't. It was true.

I'm very proud of Marie. In effect, her job is a greater rarity than mine. There are plenty of BBC controllers but only a handful of people – anywhere – with her skills. Personally, I've always kept a clear line between work and home, and I know that it upsets Marie that I don't talk about it. Marie, you know that I work for the BBC, don't you?

INTERVIEW BY
SUE GAIFFORD

Well, he came into the office about a month ago and one of the girls was talking to him and she said, "I was quite frightened coming here but it was OK because I spoke to your dad and he's so easy to talk to", and she walked away. He came straight up to me and said he couldn't believe his ears.

And it did make me think. If there's one good thing about all this it is that it gave me a sense of perspective about him. I got away from all the classic father things – clean up your room, do this, do that – and I began to get a bit calmer, because I saw him so little and I wanted to do it better. It did make me stop short and think, well, I've got to stop being a grouch when I get home.

And you see, I always was very home-oriented, completely unadventurous. That is why I liked Radio 4 so much. I was your ideal housewife. I have listened to the radio incessantly, all my life; I used to write letters to the broadcasters. I wrote to Tony Hancock when I was a kid. When I was interviewed for this job, people thought all that was a pose, but it wasn't. It was true.

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INTERVIEW BY
SUE GAIFFORD

INFORMATION UNLIMITED

ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID HEARTACHE

NO. 18 DEPRESSION

The facts

■ 4 million people suffer from depression in this country at any one time – 1.5 million of them would be categorised as suffering from mild depression
■ 1 in 4 people suffers from a depressive illness at some point in their life
■ Calls to helplines for depression double during the month of January
■ The annual cost of UK depression in 1995 was £8bn – £500m for medication, £4bn for sickness, £3.5bn for lost production
■ Depression is known as the "common cold" of psychiatry as it is the most commonly encountered mental illness
■ Doctors don't have specific laboratory tests for depression, so their diagnoses are primarily based on the patient's behaviour and symptoms
■ Depression can be treated effectively in 90 per cent of cases

Talking treatments

■ Psychotherapy – the patient uses the therapist as a way of working out and resolving patterns of behaviour
■ Counselling – the therapist reflects back what the patient has said to help them analyse their thoughts. Call the British Association of Counselling – 01783 578328
■ Behavioural Therapy – recognises damaging behavioural patterns and encourages more appropriate behaviour
■ Cognitive Therapy – aims to change feelings of low self-esteem
■ Family Therapy – offers advice on improving family interactions

Medical treatments

Antidepressants correct the imbalance in the chemical make up of the brain which causes the depression. They are not addictive and are often used in addition to therapy and counselling. Patients sometimes need to take several medications simultaneously.

Self-help

■ Don't be afraid to ask for help
■ Try and understand your illness by reading as much as you can about it
■ Watch your intake of alcohol carefully
■ Exercise and eat a healthy and regular diet
■ Take vitamin and mineral supplements
■ Confide in a friend or relative about your illness
■ Explore complementary therapies such as yoga, acupuncture and reflexology
■ Call the Depression Alliance for listings of self-help groups – 0171-633 9829 and get their special leaflet *Beating Depression at Christmas* for 40p

Other types of depression

■ People with manic depression suffer from dramatic mood swings. Call: Manic Depression Fellowship – 0181-874 6550
■ Postnatal depression occurs after giving birth as a result of hormonal changes and/or the pressure of increased responsibilities
■ Seasonal Affective Disorder affects the level of melatonin in the body and is more common in winter. Contact SADA – 01903 814942
■ Low self-esteem, difficult childhood, anxiety
■ Illness, infection, surgery
■ Childbirth
■ Loneliness
■ Alcohol, drugs or food addictions
■ Side-effects of medication
■ Excessive caffeine intake
■ Vitamin and mineral deficiencies

Mind – The National Association for Mental Health – 0181-519 2122
Samaritans – 0345 909090
SANEline – 0345 678000
Compiled by the authors of *Women Unlimited: The Directory for Life*, published by Penguin, price £9.99

How to make a better viewer

In the second part of our week-long series on the culture of criticism, we consider what it means to be a television critic. What is the TV critic's role? What is his relationship with his subject? And what, ultimately, is his objective? By Thomas Sutcliffe

There are in the human gut, numerous types of bacteria, an alien intestinal flora that has made a niche for itself in this dark, warm and fecund environment - a place where nutrition is all-encompassing and unavoidable, a kind of gastric weather. Little effort is required on the part of these organisms to secure their nourishment and they are completely, helplessly, dependent on this inside-out cornucopia for their continued existence.

Television critics are rather like these bacteria. Where the theatre critic or the art critic have to roam abroad to find their sustenance, television critics usually sit at home, taking what they need from the steady stream of fresh videos, arriving in peristaltic waves by courier and postman. And one of the things that is most conspicuous about this arrangement is the marked discrepancy of investment. Someone may have spent eight arduous months making a documentary, trawling tropical disease and typhoon to do it, but for the television critic that odyssey may well be reduced to a morning's work.

This inalienable discrepancy of investment is the feature of criticism which causes most resentment and dismay for artists, and it is true that it is often a cruel disjunction. But it is also an unavoidable one - partly because it reflects the even greater cruelty of the viewer's perspective, but also because it takes less time accurately to point out faults than to create them in the first place. This has sometimes created a prejudice in favour of the original exertion, but it is an entirely false one; it would be absurd to value Michael Winner more than Pauline Kael because at least he 'had a go', and because it is undeniably more difficult to finance and produce a motion picture than it is to file copy to a magazine that treasures you. If I were given a choice between saving Death-wish for posterity or saving Kael's review of the same film, I wouldn't need a second to decide.

Such discrepancy of investment is also a feature of most parasitic arrangements, of course, and this preamble is just another way of acknowledging that all critics are parasites, of one kind or another. Naturally they are - it hardly needs debating, really. The interesting question, though, is not whether critics are parasites or not, but what kind of parasites they are. For many artists this question is relatively easily answered; they would argue, I suppose, that the relationship that exists between makers and critics is what is technically known as a parasitoidal one - that is, an arrangement in which the parasite actually kills off the host, often after a long period of slow and cruel debilitation. But there are other ways of thinking about such associations. Biologists also talk about commensalism - an arrangement in which the parasite benefits without

either harming or benefiting the host. There are occasions, from the perspective of the television critic at least, when this seems as good an analogy as any. After all, what television executives wait for anxiously after transmission is not the overnight reviews but the overnight figures. And there are other reasons why television critics may feel less directly implicated in the fortunes of the medium they cover.

They carry less intellectual baggage than some of their colleagues, for one thing, because although the subject has been seized and carried into the academy in recent years, there isn't a long history of intellectual engagement with television. An art critic may well have Ruskin or Herbert Read at his back, a theatre critic, Tynan or even Dr Johnson. The hot breath on the back of a television critic's neck is



THE CRITICAL CONDITION

most likely to be that of Clive James - the writer who really consolidated the idea that it was the first duty of the television critic to make readers laugh, with writing in which a kind of affectionate contempt was the prevailing tone. The success of this approach was not just to do with James's wit - but the fact that it perfectly matched the assured superiority of the audience in the face of this particular medium.

Television is both promiscuous and domestic - a whore in the living-room. It will turn virtually any trick you want at the touch of a button, and so it is hardly surprising that it is treated with a certain amount of condescension by its audiences. It is protected by noose of the ritual deferences that hem other critical subjects around - the need to dress up and go out, to enter a space which is possessed of a sacral hush or an air of communal celebration. That laconic Brooklyn encapsulation of the universal fault-finding instinct - "Everyone's a critic" - is true of television than it is of any other form precisely because so few people feel inhibited by its dignity or its pretensions.

What's more, the television critic almost always joins a conversation that has already begun, because unlike the case in most other forms of criticism, the review doesn't reach the reader before the thing reviewed. And yet television swims

imperturbably along, apparently as indifferent to critical opinion as the shark is to the desires of the remora attached to its belly.

There is a third model for the unbreakable association of host and parasite, one that might get us a little closer to the truth of the connection between subject and critic in this field - and it is that of obligative mutualism. Biologists use this term to describe associations in which both parties are inextricably knotted together by mutual need - termites have an intestinal protozoan which they require to digest the wood they eat. Without the protozoan, the termite would starve, and without the termite the protozoan would also go hungry. This may seem a little counter-intuitive to the hard-working termites of television, who can be forgiven for thinking that they would suffer no ill-effects if critics were to disappear tomorrow. But, to bend the analogy a little closer to our own particular needs here, what benefits from the arrangement in the long run is less the individual termite itself than the termite mound - that remarkable and complex structure to which the intestinal protozoan makes its own crucial contribution without ever having any conscious ambition to do its bit for termite architecture.

I want to argue that good critics and there are as many bad ones as there are bad artists! can be beneficial parasites - but I don't want to suggest that this operates by any direct regulatory mechanism.

Critics aren't referees to which work should be submitted for some incontestable verdict of quality, nor are critics reliable arbiters of truth

- the task is too personal and subjective for that, too heavily beset by prejudice and wishful thinking. In any case, critics always owe their first duty to their readers, not to some abstract notion of cultural value. That doesn't mean that the critic is nothing more than a kind of juggling dung beetle, entertaining the crowd by manipulating the productions of others. They do have an effect on the overall culture.

You could put it more bluntly like this. It is not a critic's task to make better art; it is the critic's task to make better audiences. Even this sounds a little too grandiose when written down, to be honest; but still, I think it's broadly true. Critics can't guarantee happiness for individual artists, but they can promote an ecology in which good art finds it easier to survive.

In television reviewing there are some ways in which this happens rather directly - it's unquestionably true that some programmes are broadcast partly because critical approbation exists to offset their limited success in terms of viewing figures. Critical opinion thus provides some balance for the considerable power of numbers, by amplifying the voice of that part of the audience which will never be able to make itself conspicuous through such statistics. Critics can



The doyen: Clive James consolidated the idea that the television reviewer's first duty was to make readers laugh

speak for intensity of value rather than sheer volume.

But good critics should also change the audience, too, by refining their powers of discrimination and making the casual viewer a little less likely to pass over a subtlety or a refinement. In the long run - and it may be a very long run indeed - that is likely to do far more for a

particular medium or an art form than any amount of local cheerleading for the mediocre, however well intentioned it may be.

I would settle for obligative mutualism, then. Obligative because the human instinct to pass comment is insuppressible. Whenever two or three are gathered together, two will

say they are both wrong. The mutualism arises out of the fact that both producer and critic benefit from a culture in which audiences are not just passive recipients of what artists want to tell us and what companies want to sell us, but are also questioning and resistant.

The end result is a culture - a termite mound that results from no

single act of will but from the complex interaction of many different instincts. Critics may well look exploitative, indolent and self-interested. In many cases - even the best - they are. But take them away and the termite mound would suffer.

Tomorrow: Tom Lubbock on visual art criticism

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Communities and help groups are sprouting up every day - in cyberspace.
By Matt Jones

Around the world, in busy cities, groups of people gather in silence, their fingers tapping away, calming themselves on 21st-century worry beads. They stare, hunched on high chairs, peering into a glow much brighter than the soft-edged light of the room.

These are not new adherents to some pre-millennial cult; they are ordinary people - office workers, schoolchildren and off-duty nurses. You will find them congregating in cybercafes, university computer labs and school classrooms. And, together, perhaps unawares, they are involved in an extraordinary revolution that is shaping the future of the commercial use of the Internet and, perhaps, society itself.

Whitelies shopping centre in central London has a popular cyber-cafe squeezed between themed restaurants and a cinema complex. Peer over the shoulders of the clientele. Why are they so engrossed by the glow, happy to leave their cappuccino froth to cool and sink?

Read any Web-hype - in magazines, newspapers or trade journals - and you might expect that these eager, wired citizens to be "surfing" in hope of self-improvement or tracking down virtual bargains - ordering books, buying insurance, booking holidays.

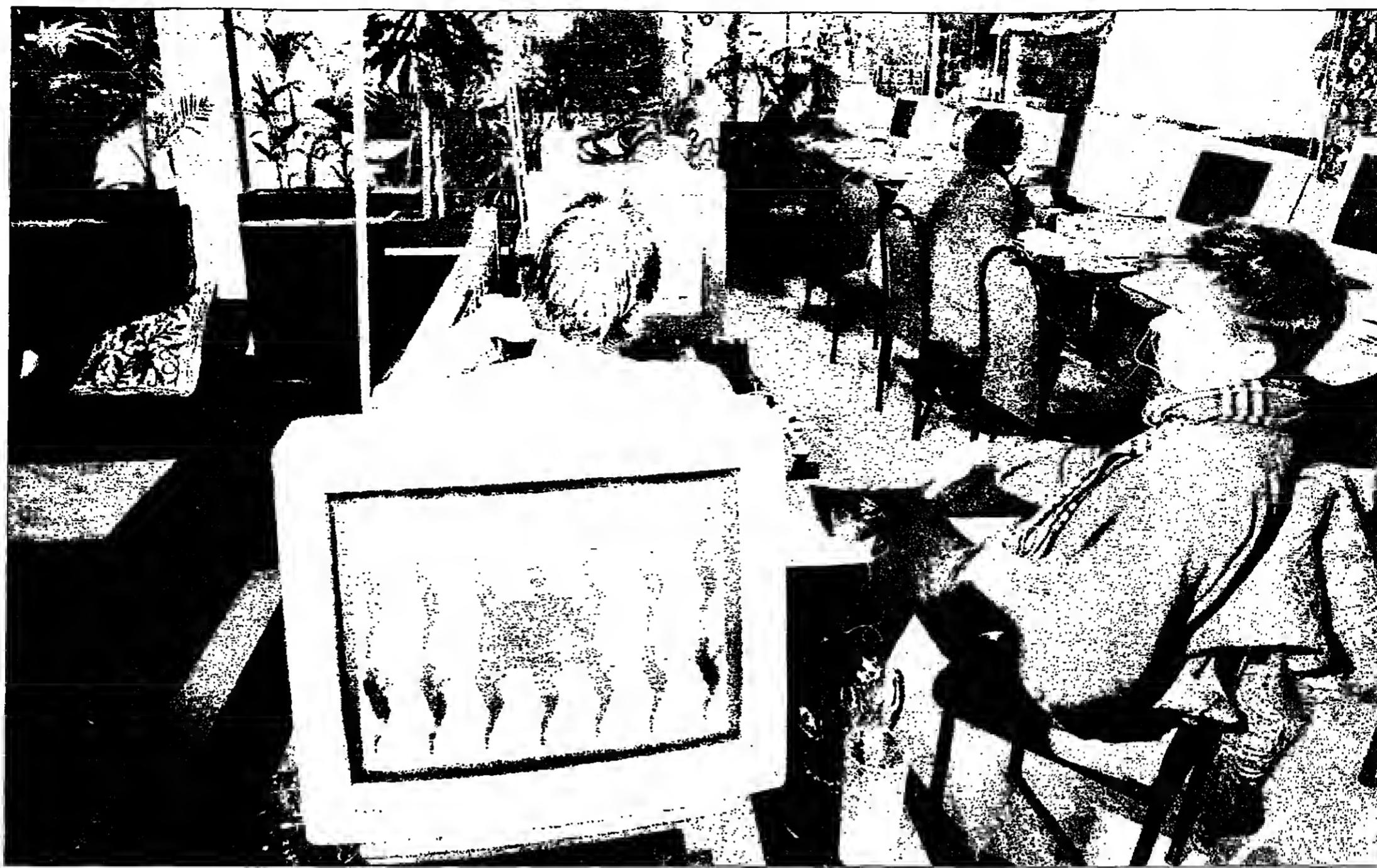
But look more closely. All these people are communicating - getting in touch with other people "out there". E-mails are being sent, bulletin boards are being read and "chat" rooms are noisy with the many-threaded text conversations. Surveys of Internet usage confirm the importance of community and communication. In the most recent GUV poll (April 1998), 94 per cent of respondents rated e-mail as "indispensable" and many said they felt more connected to others through their use of the Internet.

All this time-consuming, simple cyber-communing seems to be a long way from the shiny, clinical commercial dreams of some major corporations. Where is the "friction-free" capitalism that was promised by Bill Gates?

The friction-full reality of the Net is enough to make some big businesses scale down their Web plans. Nobody has ever made money out of the Web, they say. Some, though, have seen the potential of vast sums if only they can tap into the Web community ethos. Early leaders were the digital companies - such as HotMail and Geocities - which offered free Web-based e-mail and homepage space as long ago as 1995.

The idea was simple: if users get access to a Web browser they could send and receive e-mail. The first subscribers were business travellers and digitally literate tourists. Now, some travel guides devote more space to Internet access than post office locations. It may be a lonely planet, but if there's a cybercafe around the corner, you are not alone. The services had a wider appeal, and subscriber numbers grew rapidly. Today, GeoCities claims 2.8 million users, and HotMail tops this with 9 million.

Free e-mail, though, is old news. What are grabbing the attention of service providers are new sophisticated services. In August, Excite - a major search engine provider - announced its "Communities" concept. Since mid-September, the services have been available to any-



It's good to tap: cybercafe's patrons get into the global community spirit

AP

There's a caring and sharing cyber-community out there

one. Subscribers (a loose term, as the services are free) are given their own set of Web-based communication tools. Using these, they set up a virtual meeting place - a sort of electronic village hall - and communities are sprouting every day.

"Excite recognised an untapped opportunity on the Web to help groups of users with a common interest - a family, a Cub Scout pack, Beanie Baby collectors - who have no technical skills, to create a unique place to share on the Web", says Joe Klaus, Excite's co-founder.

Members of a "community" connect using any computer with a Web browser. Messages can be exchanged in real time, community messages can be posted on shared noticeboards, and there are even group scheduling capabilities so virtual meetings can be arranged.

Excite started a trend that others have begun to follow. Yahoo announced its "clubs", while other popular sites, such as the internet bookseller Amazon.com, are exploring the potential of community appeal.

But why are these companies spending so much money on providing free services? Simple: these freebies are user magnets. Web users can choose from millions of websites; by 2003, the number is likely to be around 100 million.

Attracting users to your site is a difficult thing to do; community services, though, seem to be doing just that.

Websites with large numbers of loyal visitors can do what every business wants to do on the Web - make money. Yahoo, Excite and others can collect high rents from advertisers for small parts of their Web pages. Community-enabling sites can also lead to carefully targeted audiences using registration information. The price you pay for these "free" services is a little bit of your privacy.

Real world companies - high-street names - also want to be popular. Take Dixons, the consumer electronic retailer. In September, it unveiled FreeServe to provide

will think about their generous patron. Then, when it's time to buy whatever the company sells - TVs, books, insurance - hopefully they choose the company that has been so helpful to them in the past. And to make things even simpler, the purchase is likely to be done online.

Web communities seem set to transform Web consumerism. But

their impact is much more profound. They will change the real communities we live in - for better or worse. Internet-based groups have been around for a long time, but only now are facilities available for

just for members of that family to keep in touch); the Positively Optimistic & Pleasant Group (a "Wellness place for Balance"); and, the Rainbow Circle (for those who wish to "reintegrate tribal values", escaping "today's ways", while, ironically remaining on the Net).

Web communities seem set to transform Web consumerism. But their impact is much more profound. They will change the real communities we live in - for better or worse. Internet-based groups have been around for a long time, but only now are facilities available for

inhabit. In the United States, there is a good number of these networks. Residents of small districts use the Net to keep in touch with what's happening in their local area. In the UK, too, enthusiasm is growing. Last year, Microsoft wired up 23 households in a London street, giving them access to a community bulletin board called MSN Street. Today such community spirit is possible without the help from a Microsoft special project team.

On the Net, there are heroic stories of cures found, suicides averted and problems solved by and for people separated by thousands of miles. We, too, we are told, can join this caring global community. But what about the person who lives two doors away? Their needs may go unheard. Geographically based Web communities ground the exciting possibilities of communication in the reality of our everyday lives.

Once upon a time, community life meant jumble sales and sports days. Community in the Internet age is much, much more. We will build up relationships with people all around the world, but as we immerse ourselves in the glow of the new world, let us ensure we do not drown. Let's keep sight of reality, using the Net to make our real lives and communities better.

"Community" Nets seem to provide a good balance: harnessing the power of electronic communication to support the real places we

Users can change genders, take on new personalities and play out fantasy roles - a kind of digital Dungeons And Dragons

Internet access, e-mail and other facilities. All this is free: unlike traditional Internet service providers such as AOL, there are no connection fees and no monthly rental costs. According to Dixons, 450,000 people have signed up already.

The benefits to the user are obvious, but what about the company? The aim is to develop that marketing Holy Grail - a customer relationship. Community facilities are cyber equivalents of the loyalty card. Each time a user returns to the company's site to send an e-mail, chat with friends, or read the noticeboard, they

any group of people to set themselves up easily in cyberspace. The Web communities we decide to build and join will effect our participation in the real world.

So what choice do we have? The possibilities offered by Excite alone seem bewildering. In three months, the Excite directory has grown to hold over 10,000 entries. Already, a wide diversity of interest groups meets, using the Web. Browse through the listings and you'll encounter a mix of ordinary, intriguing and strange communities. There's Todd's Family Community

groups, choosing to be whoever or whatever they wish. Users can change genders (or even species), take on new personalities and play out fantasy roles (a kind of digital Dungeons and Dragons).

Concerns have been voiced over the distortion of reality caused by these places: will participants lose their ability to engage with the physical world? Speaking at a conference on morality and the Information Society, organised by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, argued: "Face-to-face com-

munity is vital to the development of a moral persona capable of informed discernment."

Most people, though, are much more positive about the self-help and special-interest Web communities.

Since the first few computers were connected to the Net, academics have communicated and collaborated electronically - sharing problems and publishing successes. Now

there are numerous worthwhile support communities - if you have a specialist hobby, or a child with a rare disease, there will be others out there willing to listen and help them. Of course, certain special-interest groups - racists and other hate-based causes - are unhealthy. Harold Thimbleby, a professor of computing and member of the Church of England's working party on IT, opined: "In the real world, round-minded individuals are visible and can meet opposing views; this is good for all of us. But on the Web, they form single-minded communities, perpetuating their ideas."

"With the easy availability of encryption, they can hide everything that they say and think from the rest of us. Once isolated within their communities by the technology itself, their ideas may get increasingly unrealistic and unrelated to the rest of us."

"Community" Nets seem to provide a good balance: harnessing the power of electronic communication to support the real places we

out of the doors making money when still half-baked (as is often the case with real-world rapid development applications), then the reliability of such a code will always be questionable. Those products are mostly only usable from version 3 onwards, at least according to Bill Gates's comments on the reliability of Windows.

Open-source development philosophy ensures that many eyes and brains are available for fast debugging and redevelopment, thus offering high-class products quite early in the development cycle. Complex software development is often a numbers game, and open-source code has the advantage here over underfunded and buried commercial development teams.

So will we see a change in commercial software development practice? It's too early to say - but the release of an open-source office suite that competes with Windows is a giant step towards ending the Microsoft monopoly.

evn@never.com

Open source offers the road away from Microsoft

LAST WEEK marked a few more milestones on the Road Ahead Without Microsoft. The recently released Linux Office Suite (www.suse.com) is the first comprehensive office productivity package based on open-source code that can compete with Windows. It delivers powerful performance on spreadsheet, word processor, presentation graphics, database programs and various other exciting goodies.

The beauty of it is that the source code to the software is free, and you are welcome to improve on it and distribute these improvements to your friends and other people seeking Bill-Gates-free screens.

Linux, the operating system that is supported by a community of developers, rather than a single company, has finally moved to the level where your accounts can be completed and presentations prepared without the guys from Redmond getting their usual bounty.

The second important event of the week was an announcement from Sun Microsystems,

indicating its intention to include a new version of Linux on its workstations and servers, alongside Solaris, Sun's proprietary operating system. The momentum behind open-source software is moving it to the mission-critical environment where Sun currently operates. It is not just the humble spreadsheet, but large-scale e-commerce, banking and high-traffic websites that will soon be using open-source software.

The road away from Microsoft and proprietary software, and toward open-source code, has been long in the making. The advantages are numerous, mainly because open-source software is subjected to a critical peer review by a collaborating programming community. That process is equivalent to scientific paper peer-evaluation, and generally guarantees faster debugging and higher reliability levels than proprietary software such as Windows.

There is an assumption among many professional software buyers that, because the software was developed by

someone on a salary, it is a product of guaranteed quality. From my years of working on software teams, it has become clear to me that this is an entirely incorrect line of reasoning. There is nothing less guaranteed than a piece of code developed in a hurry by a tired programmer who then has to fit that in some mega-application, and think through all the implications of any small change in his code on the whole product. Since code developed for commercial release is inevitably written in a hurry, with commercial pressures never allowing enough time for testing and debugging, the odds on its having high reliability are minimal (see the whole history of Windows development - or rather, on-going debugging).

The example of a successful redevelopment of an open-source application can be found with the new version of Netscape. One of the heroes of the open-source community is Jamie Zovinsky (www.jzwz.org), who developed a Unix version of Netscape, and is able to add their own 10-pence worth of new functionality, which

should result in taking the browser concept to the next generation of cyberbots.

Jamie is a hacker but a converted one, and his choice of literature (comics) should not be held against him on the day of reckoning, mainly owing to his contribution to moving tightly held proprietary code to the realms of open-source software.

Other examples of successful open-source code development can be found by looking at the Internet key tools. You will notice that most of the key components of the network are based on open source software. Sendmail, developed by another legend, Eric Allman, is the most obscure, but also most useful, electronic e-mail server, and is behind the operations of every single Unix box in the world - and therefore is an engine driving all Internet service providers' e-mail solutions. Perl, another open-source software, is behind all those neat competitions you enter online. Various open-source TCP/IP stacks and utility suites are behind most of the live content on the Web. This is a

stunningly successful set of products, and many companies would kill to gain ownership of the code. Luckily, the community of developers managed to sweat out the products that just kept getting better, providing lots of fun to all involved. Both users and developers of the Internet are acting in a manner similar to a closed feedback loop, where progress is inherent in the generic philosophy of ongoing improvement.

The quality of these products is extremely high, as they endure and survive the Internet's monstrous growth without compromising mission critical requirements. So it was no surprise that one of the top stars of open source, Linux, got PC Magazine's award for technical innovation of the year for the Best Network Operating System. The typical objections to open source code is usually that a code without an owner is less reliable than the code with an owner. However, that really depends on the owner and his goals, values and integrity. The



EVA PASCOE
Commercial code is often written in a hurry, and the chances of reliability are low

release of the Netscape source code, Jamie is one of the key people on Mozilla (www.mozilla.org), which manages and maintains the dialogue between Netscape and thousands of developers who contribute improvements to the browser. Thanks to the release of the source code, many people were able to add their own 10-pence worth of new functionality, which

out of the doors making money when still half-baked (as is often the case with real-world rapid development applications), then the reliability of such a code will always be questionable. Those products are mostly only usable from version 3 onwards, at least according to Bill Gates's comments on the reliability of Windows.

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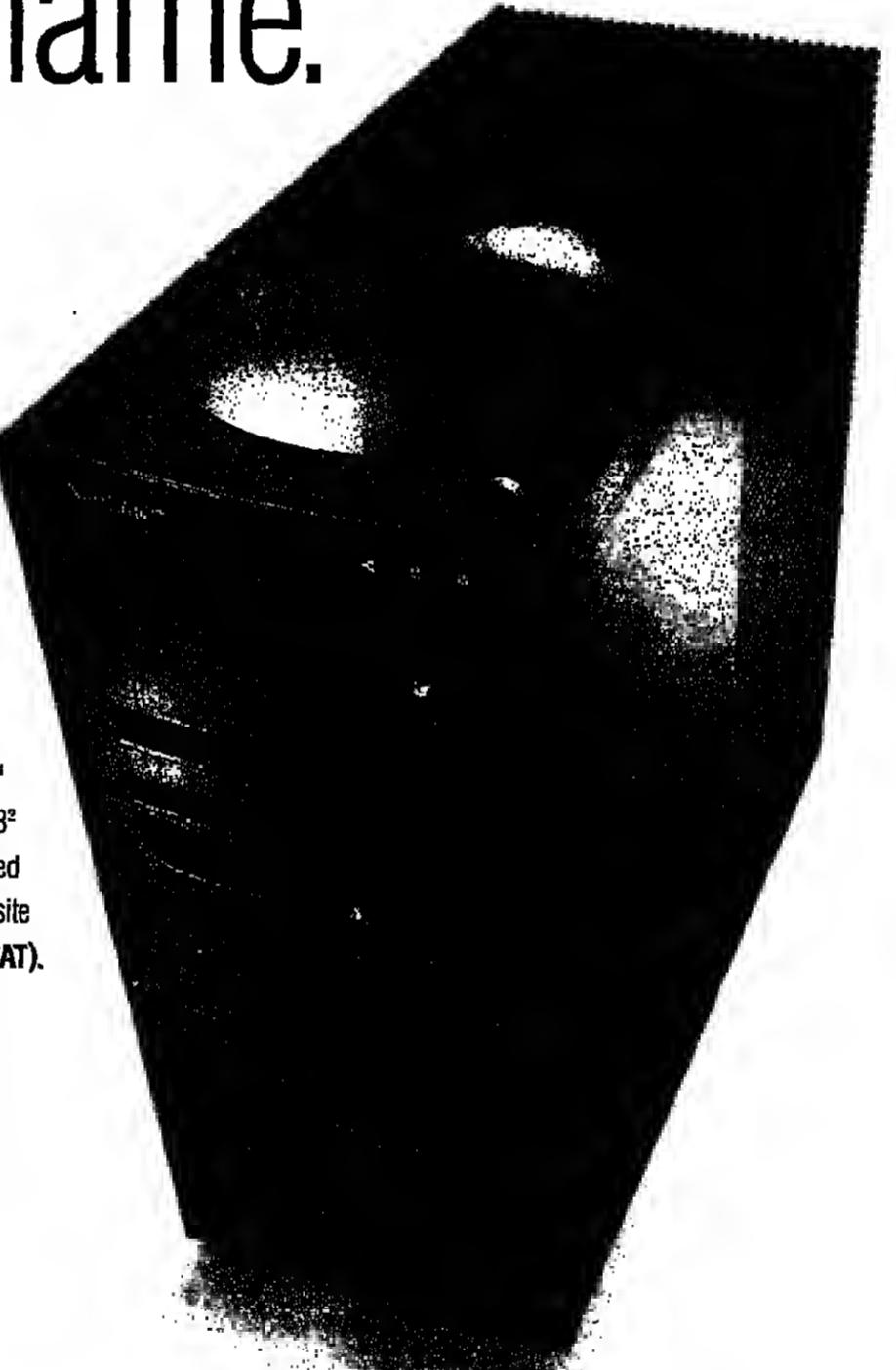
So will we see a change in commercial software development practice? It's too early to say - but the release of an open-source office suite that competes with Windows is a giant step towards ending the Microsoft monopoly.

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MY TECHNOLOGY

Heart FM Radio's David Jensen and his state-of-the-art Denon CD system, with selector. Interview by Jennifer Rodger

How to give a DJ an easy life

When I first started in radio, we had passed the cylinder stage by then, but not vinyl. That was 30 years ago. Each technical component for the radio show was independent of every other; at Radio Luxembourg I would arrive and do my programme in a room separate from where the engineering, the commercials and the music played. We broadcast in the middle of a park in a chateau with a moat, and our studio was simply a round table. The commercials and jingles played of quarter-inch tapes put on massive, spindly wound and pinned on to sprockets. Some of that technical equipment was installed when Lord Haw Haw was broadcasting! (Just to digress - we had huge metal discs with German writing we would use as Frisbees. Eventually we discovered that these discs were recordings of Lord Haw Haw's broadcasts, real archives worth money. But by then, they had been dumped.)

Radio Luxembourg was a leading modern station. But it was different for me to be working somewhere where I wasn't in control. We did hand-signals and hoped the guy had come back from the loo or from getting a cup of tea. For instance, to turn the microphone off you rubbed your index finger across your throat and for hours would have a red line across your throat. The

technology was rudimentary, but at least it worked. A listener could hear the mistakes. One of the skills of live radio is to paper over the cracks; some of it is your own, and you should never blame technology, ever, ever. But with hindsight, it was an odd way to broadcast.

I went from there in the mid-Seventies to Radio Nottingham. It was always my aim to move to Britain, as pirate radio was all the rage so there was plenty of op-

As with all technology you can never really be complacent... because if you do it will bite you

portunity. When the government shut them down I went to the BBC. The BBC virtually built and designed all the audio equipment then. For instance, everywhere you turned faders away for increased volume, but at the Beeb they were the other way round. It was like learning to drive on the other side of the road.

In the late-Eighties CDs came in. Before then every radio station had three turntables, two you used and one as standby. At Radio 1, they spent a lot of money on an instant turntable; you used to have to cue records, back them up several inches from the start point, because there was a slow start-up. It was a real big deal to have instant-start turnta-

bles. They were pretty chunky bits of machinery, not at all decorative. But previously if you coughed, moved or banged your knee, the record would jump.

Here, as a fail-safe thing, CDs are played in a plastic envelope. It's like a floppy disk. For a presenter CDs were great, because the thought of taking vinyl out of its wrapper, cueing it up in the hope that it would start when you wanted, became a real chore. In the past few years fewer and

putting in CDs any more. Our system is RCS. There are about 4,000 titles on the hard disk and new titles are added each week. Basically, a computer system schedules the music and we give it certain rules, such as: these are the 10 most popular of the week. The programme is called Selector and it's universally used. The difference between our system and elsewhere is that our Selector system interfaces with the hard disk. So instead of spewing out a piece of paper and going to find the CD, it is there on the screen for the DJ. So all the DJ does is hit the button, and the next song begins.

This is, without a doubt, the easiest system I have ever worked with. But as with all technology you can never really be complacent: you can never sit back and say, "that is great", because if you do it will bite you. If you treat it well you will be rewarded with a system that plays out your programme for you.

The thought of not actually touching music was odd at first. But I suppose that, in a way, it's no more different from going from a manual transmission to automatic; you get used to it. And the ethos of the studio itself hasn't changed: it's still an environment I love - the excitement and "aliveness" haven't changed. Our job has just been made easier by having this machinery doing this stuff for us.

The Drivetime Show is on every weekday, Heart 106.2, 4pm-7pm



David 'Kid' Jensen in his radio studio: 'the thought of not actually touching music seemed odd at first'

Journey out of fear

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

Reluctance by site visitors to accept new technology

Fear of large file sizes leading to long delays: obviously a larger file will lead to a longer download time. However, several other, less obvious problems can arise. Most people blame slow Web experiences on inefficient modems when, in fact, slow processors are often just as responsible.

Fear of having to download new browsers and plug-ins: by and large, most people surfing the Web will stick with the equipment that came with their computer rather than going to the trouble of downloading the latest browser or plug-in. This explains why there are so many "legacy" browsers still in use.

Until those people buy a new computer, they are unlikely to upgrade. Why don't people like to upgrade? Many feel that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it", or are simply afraid to make changes. Although, for most of us, downloading a new browser or plug-in can be a harrowing experience akin to playing Russian roulette. See the next fear.

Fear of messing things up: inexperienced computer users are often terrified that they will inadvertently ruin their very expensive computer by doing something wrong. This is especially true with software installation, as well as when working on the Web. Although it may seem irrational to seasoned computer veterans, many new users fear that they can mess up their entire

computer simply by pressing the wrong link in their browser.

FEAR OF LEARNING TO UTILISE NEW TECHNOLOGIES: many people who have just started using the Web have already spent a lot of time, energy and effort learning how to operate their new computer and the basics of their browser. Now you want them to learn how to use another technology such as Flash, RealAudio, or VRML? Forget about it: it's not going to happen.

FEAR OF INCOMPATIBLE TECHNOLOGY BETWEEN BROWSERS: most people surfing the Web will stick with the equipment that came with their computer rather than going to the trouble of downloading the latest browser or plug-in. This explains why there are so many "legacy" browsers still in use.

FEAR OF THE INSTABILITY AND COMPLEXITY OF A NEW TECHNOLOGY: often the latest technologies have not been thoroughly tested and relying on them can be chancy at best.

FEAR OF HAVING TO DOWNLOAD NEW BROWSERS AND PLUG-INS: by and large, most people surfing the Web will stick with the equipment that came with their computer rather than going to the trouble of downloading the latest browser or plug-in. This explains why there are so many "legacy" browsers still in use.

FEAR OF HAVING TO LEARN AND MASTERS NEW TECHNOLOGIES: there is a plethora of ever-changing and evolving technologies available for the Web and it is a full-time job just keeping up with them.

BALANCING THE LEARNING OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND TECHNIQUES WITH THE USE OF

E-MAIL COMMENTS OR QUERIES, SEND TO JASON AT indy.webdesign@minispring.com

JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE IS THE AUTHOR OF 'DHTML FOR THE WORLD WIDE WEB', CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AT BOOKSHOPS, BOTH REAL AND VIRTUAL, ACROSS THE UK

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

PALMPilot HAND-HELD devices can be used to break into cars, according to a report in *New Scientist*. Following reports from Denmark, the magazine estimated that up to 3 million cars using infrared remote-controlled locking devices are vulnerable. The problem arises with the Omnidrive software used by the portable organisers to allow them to learn the behaviour of other infrared devices and emulate them as remote controls for television sets, video recorders and other domestic appliances. Using the same process, the PalmPilot can capture the code of a car's locking system and play it back.

The manufacturers of the devices, 3Com, described the problem as "unfortunate", but said that, as they did not write the software, they are not responsible for any illegal use. They also pointed out that this previously undocumented feature is not unique to PalmPilot.

"You could do this with a standard universal remote or anything that has a programmable [infrared controller] in it," a spokesman said. "This is nothing new; it just so happens that these people figured out how to do it on a Palm III."

Engineers and insurance spokesmen said that the problem applied only to some older cars with less sophisticated security systems, and that the risk is largely theoretical since car thieves would need to position themselves directly in the path of the infrared beam generated by a person locking a vehicle. "There are easier ways to steal cars," said Blake Hannaford, a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Washington.

NETWORK SOLUTIONS NSI and Central, the RealNames Web address company, last week announced a deal under which NSI will invest \$4.2m in Central and distribute subscriptions to RealNames. NSI has an option to acquire a stake of just under 20 per cent in Central, and have a seat on Central's board.

NSI has held a US government monopoly on assigning traditional domain names, although it is due to cede that authority to an international Internet corporation for assigned names and numbers. Central, founded by Keith Teare, who also co-founded the UK ISP Easynet and Cyberia

South Carolina's Attorney-General, said that his state no longer feels that Microsoft is harming competition.

"The merger of America Online with Netscape and the alliance by those two companies with Sun Microsystems proves that the forces of competition are working... The Internet economy is the place where the winners and losers of this competition will rightfully be decided," said Mr Condon



US Robotics' PalmPilot

cafes, pioneered a system whereby Web users can type a single name into a browser, rather than a convoluted URL.

The two companies represent "the yin and yang of the name space", said Doug Wolford, senior vice-president of marketing and sales at NSI. "There will always be more Web pages than domain names, and now we have a way of naming all those Web pages as well as those websites. It's an almost limitless opportunity to name the Web pages."

NSI will keep a *de facto* monopoly on domain name registrations after competing registries enter the market. The alliance with Central is expected to cement that hold.

THE ANTI-TRUST case brought against Microsoft by the US Department of Justice and a coalition of states resumed last week as David Farber, a professor of computer science at the University of Pennsylvania, testified that the bundling of Internet Explorer with the Windows operating system creates more harm than benefit to software developers, computer sellers and end users. Microsoft said Farber's statement "provided nothing more than an opinion piece on how he thinks Microsoft could have or should have designed Windows. But in our market economy, government consultants don't get to redesign software products."

In the ensuing debate over what constitutes an operating system and what an application is - an issue at the heart of the case - the DOJ used Microsoft's own computer dictionary to back up its argument that a browser is an application.

Earlier in the week, one of the states that originally filed charges against Microsoft dropped out. Charles Condon,

committee last week postponed a vote on legislation aimed at deterring piracy on the Internet, delaying action by the full assembly until at least February next year. The Legal Affairs Committee agreed to schedule a vote for 20 January after the parliament's political groups failed to complete their internal preparations.

The legislation, proposed by the European Commission almost a year ago, gives authors, performers, producers and broadcasters the right to say who can make copies of their work. It also gives them the right to control how their creations or performances are communicated to the public and requires EU member states to prohibit devices aimed at working round anti-piracy technologies.

STAR DIVISION last week said that it is offering the latest version of its desktop application suite, StarOffice 5.0, free for individuals, non-commercial use at its Web site (<http://www.stardivision.com/>). The suite runs on Windows 95, 98, NT, Solaris, Linux, O/S 2, and Java, and includes conversion filters for Microsoft Office including Office 2000, which ships in the coming year.

By offering the new product free of charge, the company hopes that it will make inroads against Microsoft, Lotus and Corel and gain 10 million new StarOffice users by the end of next year.

A EUROPEAN parliament com-

17 December 7pm
Los Angeles 11am / New York 2pm / London 7pm / Moscow 10pm
<http://webevents.broadcast.com/mccartney>

Linda's Wide Prairie album and music video /

Album video / Linda's new cookbook /

Paul answering your questions / Plus surprises

McCartney's Wide Prairie



Paul McCartney live on the web
Exclusive webcast hosted by Paul

NEW FILMS

THE BOYS (18)

Director: Rowan Woods
Starring: David Wenham, Toni Collette, Lynette Curran
A boy of jail after serving a sentence for GBH. oldest boy Brett Sprague (Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend (Collette), and turns his younger brothers into petty benchmen. Adapted from Gordon Graham's acclaimed stage-play, *The Boys* spotlights the flipside of life Down Under with a stark social-realist drama circling gracefully around a horrific crime which is hinted at but never actually shown. Occasionally, its theatrical origins are too readily apparent, but Rowan Woods' stealthy handling and Wenham's menacing lead ensure that the interest seldom dwindles. Potent, predatory stuff.
West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

Director: Martin Campbell
Starring: Antonio Banderas, Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta Jones
The Zorro yarn resurrected. Martin "GoldenEye" Campbell's gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics justifies for purchase amid a riot of colourful duels and clattering action setpieces. It's old-fashioned and reliably entertaining. Anthony Hopkins and Catherine Zeta Jones bring a whiff of the valleys to their father-and-daughter co-star slots.
West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle, Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicestershire Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

Nathaniel Hulley

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Director: Nancy Meckler
Starring: Lindsay Lohan, Natasha Richardson
The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue: re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heartwarmer into a spry, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to get their parents (Natasha Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together. It's a film of sleek, clean surfaces, bright colours and oozing knockout comedy. But a thick layer of syrup covers every inch.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

PLAYING GOD (18)

Director: Andy Wilson
Starring: David Duchovny, Timothy Hutton
Cracker director Wilson suffers a rude lesson in Hollywood politics with this glossy but garbled thriller about a junkie doctor (David Duchovny) embroiled with a gang of counterfeitors headed by a hammy Tim Hutton.

Essentially a star vehicle for Duchovny, *Playing God* nonetheless conspires to steer a most ill-disciplined course, swerving from grisly violence (one jets of arterial blood) to po-faced character study (Duchovny wants his licence back) to surrealistic comedy (an encounter with a bunch of saintly bikers). Hutton and his cronies indulge in all manner of insipid gauger chat, but they look a limp and spindly bunch who would be bard pushed fighting their way out of a paper bag. Duchovny and luminous co-star Angelina Jolie look on stupefied.
West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village

Nathaniel Hulley

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (15)

"A follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted warts. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak, animaltronic fairytale.
West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle, Coronet, Empire Leicestershire Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

BLADE (18)

A gloomy soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous thriller about a New York vampire killer tackling a power-crazed newbloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its thin pedigree.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. As it backboos is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature.
West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Screen on the Hill

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

All the students at writer-director Dan Rosen's nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight A grades to the room-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the *Scream* films, *Dead Man's Curve* delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks.
West End: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a film which ultimately tells a tale of independence triumphing over cruelty.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road

THE END OF VIOLENCE (15)

Wim Wenders is back on form with this stylish and intelligent *techno-not* about a Nazi plot to "end violence as we know it" through mass surveillance.
West End: Ritzy Cinema

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman's cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcoleptic lunacy, and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp, who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life.

West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Haymarket

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Curzon Soho

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)

Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being, with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a thick vein of bile, and, at the day's end, this is the making of the film: turning it into a bittersweet satire to the little man who makes a big difference.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez (right) the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy suited by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

My Name is Joe (15)

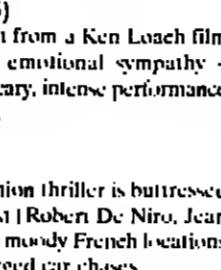
All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's seedy, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

Ronin (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgård), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

The Fountainhead (PG)

Gary Cooper plays a visionary architect who refuses to buckle under mob pressure in King Vidor's astonishing adaptation of the Ayn Rand novel. Patricia Neal shoulders opposite him.



ANTHONY QUINN

CINEMA
WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

[0171-9020418] \ominus Baker Street
Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 9pm
Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm, 9pm
Lock & Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PANTON STREET

[0171-9020404] \ominus Piccadilly Circus
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
A Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY

[0171-287 4322] \ominus Piccadilly Circus

Dead Man's Curve 4.20pm, 8.45pm Hamam: The Turkish Bath 5.25pm, 8.35pm, 9pm
Victory 1.10pm, 6.10pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE

[0171-9020402] \ominus Shaftesbury Avenue
Piccadilly Circus 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
A Perfect Murder 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

[0171-9020403] \ominus Shaftesbury Avenue
Piccadilly Circus 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

[0171-9050007] \ominus Haymarket

Circus 1.25pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

[0171-90705001] \ominus Kensington
Piccadilly Circus 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

[0171-90705001] \ominus Marble Arch
Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

[0171-90705001] \ominus Mezzanine

Circus 1.25pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

[0171-9050007] \ominus Swiss Cottage
Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

[0171-9020414] \ominus Tottenham Court Road
Babe: Pig in the City 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Elizabeth 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

ODEON WEST END

[0171-9050007] \ominus West End
Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

PEPSI MAX CINEMA

[0171-4153 6789] \ominus High Street
Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

PHOENIX CINEMA

[0171-444 6789] \ominus Phoenix Cinema
Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

PLAZA

[0171-888990] \ominus Plaza
Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

RENOIR

[0171-937 8402] \ominus Renoir
Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

RIO CINEMA

[0171-930 3647] \ominus Rio Cinema

Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

METRO

[0171-734 1506] \ominus Metro
Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

RITZY CINEMA

[0171-733 2229] \ominus Ritz Cinema
Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

ROCK

[0171-733 2229] \ominus Rock
Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Love Upon the Throne

Comedy Theatre
The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent. Hilarious and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

Angela Carter Cinderella

Lyric, Hammersmith
Lyric's feast of inspired silliness and visual magic by Angela Carter has lashings of drag and double entendre, plus the best mice on a West End stage (below). To 9 Jan

Martin Guerre West Yorkshire

Playhouse, Leeds
Griefed young Irish director Conall Morrison stages a second reworking of the troubled *Boublil-Schonberg* musical. Will it be third time lucky? To 13 Feb

